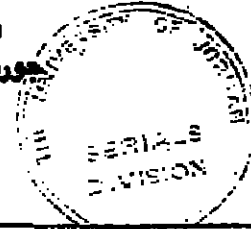


U.N. envoy meets Velayati

NICOSIA (X) — U.N. envoy Jan Eliasson discussed his efforts to reactivate peace talks when he met Jordanian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati Saturday. The Jordanian news agency IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said Eliasson briefed Velayati on his talks in Baghdad, where he conferred with Iraqi leaders before flying to Tehran Friday. IRNA said Velayati would meet Iraq's foreign minister in a U.N.-brokered ceasefire in August 1988 ended eight years of fighting between Iraq and Iran. Eliasson, a Swede, is the special envoy of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Tehran Radio quoted him as telling Velayati: "I stress my own, the secretary general's, and the U.N. Security Council's commitment to the full implementation of Resolution 598," designed to end the state of war between Iran and Iraq. He said on arrival Friday: "Nothing must obstruct the complete implementation of the resolution." Eliasson was expected to visit both Tehran and Baghdad several times during his mission, expected to last three weeks.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»



Nigerian ex-president is not dead

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's first president said Saturday that reports of his death were exaggerated. Nnamdi Azikiwe, 34, a veteran journalist as well as a poet, scholar and politician, told reporters: "I feel ashamed to belong to a profession that could make that kind of blunder." The News Agency of Nigeria quoted him as saying that although he was still ill after an operation, this was no reason to announce his death. Nigerian television, radio and newspapers were in disarray after mourning the death of the West African country's elder statesman only to have his family say he was still alive. State television solemnly announced the death of Azikiwe in its main evening news Friday. It followed its report with an elaborate obituary in praise of "Zik of Africa," a towering figure of African nationalism. State radio also said the former president died early on Friday at his home in Nsukka 450 km east of Lagos. Family and friends had bombarded the media with denials, but too late to save Saturday's newspapers from adding to the confusion. "Africa loses a colossus. Zik of Africa is dead," said the New Nigerian. Its rival vanguard settled for a baffling "Zik is not dead?"

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King urges religious moderation, reason

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday called for religious moderation and reason and for responsible dialogue on issues that concern the public.

In a meeting with Islamic clergymen and scholars at the Royal Court, the King reviewed the "current situation in all of its local, Arab and international dimensions," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The King "emphasized the established elements that govern Jordan's march — the link between the Arab system and religion — and that the fact that Islam and Arabism are two integrate factors," it added.

The King pointed out that Jordan has the longest confrontation

with Israel, which refuses peace based on exchange of land for peace, particularly the Holy City of Jerusalem, the News Agency said.

"Because of its geographical location and political position, Jordan is being attacked," the King said. "This stage requires total awareness and every possible effort to conserve our national unity against any attempt to sow disunity and confusion," he was quoted as saying by Petra. The King called on everyone to "rise to the occasion and hold

responsible dialogue on public issues in a framework of centrism, moderation and reason, which Jordan pursues in line with our beliefs which reject the exploitation of religion towards accomplishing political goals."

"We should not allow our religion to descend to a level that makes it a matter of daily debate among 'those who know and those who do not know,'" the King said. He called on scholars to carry out their "important role in solving the essential problems of the society and to defend our true and tolerant religion through peaceful dialogue."

Petra said that those attending the audience made a review of important religious and social issues and appealed to the King to restrict Islamic jurisprudence

to the Islamic Jurisprudence Council.

"The delegation thanked the King for his directives on the importance of avoiding everything that contributes to confusion in our society and appealed to His Majesty to recommend every effort to strengthen and immunise every citizen against confusion through developing education and through discipline of the information system as well as through supporting religious preaching to enable it to carry out its role in the best manner," Petra reported.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Mudar Badran and the King's political advisor.



HM King Hussein

Poor turnout for Iran's anti-U.S. rally

TEHRAN (AP) — Iranians largely ignored celebrations Saturday to mark the anniversary of the seizure of the U.S. embassy 10 years ago, dealing a major blow to radicals who had sought to use the occasion to stir anti-American passion.

Authorities, seeking to attract demonstrators to the former embassy compound, displayed seven alleged Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) spies and debris of an Iranian passenger aircraft shot down by the U.S. navy last year.

But the turnout was markedly poor, a setback for radicals challenging efforts by President Hashemi Rafsanjani to end Iran's political isolation and improve relations with the West.

Some 10,000 to 15,000 demonstrators gathered at the compound that was stormed Nov. 4, 1979, by militant "students" who held 52 American diplomats and embassy personnel hostage for 444 days.

Even the routine Friday prayer gatherings at Tehran University attract more people. Crowds at previous anti-U.S. rallies have been estimated at more than a million people.

The main speaker at the celebration was former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, Rafsanjani's main rival. It was his first public appearance since he was dropped by Rafsanjani when he formed his new cabinet in August.

He repeatedly referred to the animosity the late founder of the Islamic republic, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, harbored towards the United States, apparently seeking to justify his anti-West attitudes. Khomeini died June 3.

"Ten years ago today, when the students following the imam's (Khomeini's) line seized the den of spies (U.S. embassy), the whole world marvelled that the face of America was pushed in the mud," Mohtashemi said in his 50-minute speech.

He noted that Khomeini was against any rapprochement with the "bloodsucker government of the United States."

The crowd often interrupted Mohtashemi to shout in English and Farsi "Death to America" and "Death to Israel."

They waved life-size portraits of Khomeini and his successor as supreme leader of the republic, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The crowd marched to the embassy from Tehran University, 1 kilometre away. A group of students set ablaze an effigy of Uncle Sam and about 160 U.S. flags, some with skulls replacing the stars.

Banners vowing to "fight the U.S. until the last drop of our blood" hung from maple trees surrounding the former embassy compound, now used as a training base for teenage revolutionary guards.

MPs defy Aoun, seek to implement Arab plan

PARIS (Agencies) — The speaker of Lebanon's parliament and about 30 deputies were locked in marathon talks in Paris Saturday on the country's deepening political crisis.

But they were still bent on electing a president by next Tuesday and keeping faith with a peace accord rejected by Christian army commander Michel Aoun.

After three hours of closed-door talks chaired by Speaker Hussein Husseini, who flew in from Beirut, the mainly Christian deputies were in defiant mood.

"We have to hold the election somewhere in Lebanon before Nov. 7 — there is no change," deputy Albert Mansour said as the group broke for dinner. They were due to resume discussions in a luxury Paris hotel at 9 p.m. (200 GMT).

Aoun has tried to prevent presidential elections by declaring parliament dissolved. Parliament has been forced to seek a new venue since his representative refused to work out security arrangements for it to meet in Beirut.

Other legislators gathered at the north Lebanon airbase of Kleiat to defy Aoun, vowing to hold a special parliamentary session to elect a new president to form a government of national reconciliation.

Aoun, 54, summoned reporters to his command bunker beneath the presidential palace in suburban Baabda, east of Beirut, before dawn and read out a decree from his three-man military cabinet declaring parliament dissolved.

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership agreed Saturday to try to inject more money into the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to support the Palestinian uprising there.

Jawid Al Ghossein, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, told Reuters the Palestine National Fund (PNF) would raise the funds by stepping up collection of a "liberation tax" on Palestinians working abroad.

Ghossein, who chairs the fund, the financial arm of the PLO, also said it had agreed to cut spending on PLO offices.

The fund's decisions were made alongside a meeting in Cairo of 10 members of the 15-man PLO Executive Committee to discuss latest moves in Middle East peace diplomacy.

The committee met early Saturday and was due to reconvene later to consider a five-point formula put forward by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on the terms for proposed direct talks between Palestinians and Israelis.

PLO officials declined all comment on the discussions by the Executive Committee, the PLO's top policy-making body.

Members began the second

show of force when fighting in Beirut was at its height.

Sources close to Husseini said he and about 50 of parliament's 73 members agreed to hold an electoral session in Kleiat.

The sources said it will be convened either at the summer residence of Maronite Catholic Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, spiritual leader of Lebanon's main Christian sect, in Diman, 60 kilometres north of Beirut.

They initially said the meeting would be held Saturday, but it later appeared to have been postponed until Sunday so that 28 legislators in Paris could fly to Lebanon.

Pope John Paul II, in a message sent to the Lebanese people and read by Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente to reporters in Beirut, declared that the country faced the threat of "partition, chaos and renewed war."

Stressing that the Vatican "cannot remain neutral," the pontiff said: "It is time... for sacrifices for the sake of peace."

In what appeared to be an appeal to Aoun to back down, the message added: "One should sometimes choose the less painful options."

Puente delivered copies of the message, written in French, to Aoun and Sfeir.

Aoun said Saturday he alone had the support of the Lebanese people and any president elected by parliament would be Syria's puppet.

Aoun also vowed to continue his "liberation" campaign and change the way the world views his country's crisis.

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Ethiopia talks open in Rome

ROME (Agencies) — The Ethiopian government and rebels from Tigre Province waging a 15-year battle for autonomy opened preliminary peace talks in Rome Saturday.

Italian government observers were sitting in on the talks, which are aimed at ironing out procedural problems before full-fledged negotiations can be held.

Italy has had long links with Ethiopia, which it occupied from 1936 to 1941.

The Tigre People's Liberation Front (TPLF) took up arms 15 years ago in the province north of the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa.

In recent weeks, the rebels have scored several major victories on the battlefield. They have described their on-going offensive as a preemptive strike against mobilising government forces.

But the Ethiopian embassy said in a communique that the government "will continue the search for a peaceful solution to halt the bloodshed."

President Mengistu Haile Mariam also has opened preliminary peace talks with a second major rebel group, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF).

Those talks, begun in Atlanta, Georgia, in September, with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter as observer, are scheduled to resume in Nairobi, Kenya, later this month.

Officials said the Rome talks, being held behind closed doors in a government villa, could last as long as 15 days.

The Ethiopian government delegation is led by Ashaghe Yigle, the secretary for external relations of the central committee of the ruling Workers' Party of Ethiopia. Ashaghe also led a delegation to the peace talks with the Eritrean front.

The Tigre front team at the Rome talks is headed by the rebel movement's chairman, Meles Zenawi.

Italy's observer at the meeting is Oliviero Rossi, a senior Foreign Ministry official and former ambassador to Ethiopia.

The northern rebels have scored a series of major victories over Ethiopia's government over the last two years, greatly expanding the area under their control.

These setbacks led to an attempted coup against Mengistu last May by several military commanders demanding a negotiated end to the civil war. Mengistu offered to hold unconditional peace talks three weeks later.

The government is negotiating separately with the Eritrean and Tigre fronts because of fundamental differences in the aims of the two rebel movements.

The Eritreans want independence of Eritrea province, a former Italian colony. The Tigreans are fighting for a broader-based government in Ethiopia as a whole.

The preliminary peace talks in Rome are due to set the agenda for full-scale peace negotiations between the government and the Tigre front.

8 Palestinians wounded in 'mysterious' explosion

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Eight members of a Palestinian family were injured Saturday when an explosion ripped through their home in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron.

The cause of the explosion was unclear. Palestinian sources said Israeli soldiers or Jewish settlers threw a hand grenade at the house, but the army claimed Palestinians were apparently making a bomb which exploded in a yard outside.

A man, a woman and six children between the ages of eight and 17, all members of the Abu Seneh family, were taken to hospital.

An 11-year-old boy lost both his legs and an arm, a hospital source reported. The man lost a leg.

The army sealed off the area, while police investigated.

Reporters said rumours spread quickly through the city that either Israeli soldiers or Jewish settlers had thrown the bomb into the house. One rumour suggested the bomb was dropped from a army helicopter.

The army quickly surrounded the house and police were seen searching through the residence and questioning family members who were brought to Alia hospital in Hebron, reporters said.

Doctors at Alia hospital in Hebron said they had to amputate both of 11-year-old Mansur Hadi Stih's legs and his right hand after they were mangled in the explosion.

Mansur's sister, Sabah, 14, was transferred to Munkassad hospital in Arab Jerusalem where she was treated for moderate shrapnel wounds and multiple fractures, doctors said.

Four younger brothers and

both parents also suffered slight shrapnel wounds in the explosion, hospital officials said.

The boy's father, Omar Ahmad Stih, 34, told reporters he did not know what happened. "All I heard was the children crying and then I saw blood on my face. I forgot everything else," he said.

In Gaza City, meanwhile, soldiers placed the Zeitun, Sabra and Asqula quarters under curfew and closed the Efrat Souk, Gaza's main market, reports said.

Soldiers banged on doors ordering all males outside and commanded them to clean the streets and remove anti-Israeli slogans from the walls, reports said.

At least three Palestinians were wounded in stone-throwing clashes with Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip, Arab hospital officials said.

One million stage protest in E. Berlin in reform push

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — As many as a million protesters swarmed around East Berlin's Alexanderplatz Saturday to protest censorship and repression, a day after Communist Party chief Egon Krenz promised a major leadership shakeup.

Opposition leaders were cheered and party officials booed and whistled as they addressed the huge crowd from a platform mounted on a truck.

Police and pro-democracy activists said the demonstration spilled across the city centre and may have drawn up to one million people, though no precise estimate could be made.

One of the biggest cheers went up when a non-Communist politician repeated his demand for the resignation of the entire East German leadership.

The call came from Manfred Gierisch, leader of the liberal Democratic Party, which has led the drive for more independence

by the four small parties that were closely affiliated with the Communists.

The Communists' unpopularity was made evident when East Berlin party chief and politburo member Guenter Schabowski took the stand.

Schabowski, who was instrumental in allowing Saturday's demonstration, faced such a crescendo of boos and catcalls that one of the organisers stepped in and asked the crowd to let him finish his speech.

Schabowski's reassertion of the "steadfast alliance" with the Soviet Union drew more jeers.

Jens Reich, a leader of the New Forum opposition group, received loud applause when he called for free elections. He said opposition groups should be "fully recognised" and not just tolerated.

Many in the crowd filling the vast square held up New Forum banners.

"Freiheit. Freiheit (freedom)," the crowd often chanted.

Other speakers called for free trade unions and one demanded compensation for victims of Stalinist terror.

As Saturday's East Berlin rally unfolded, thousands of East Germans flooded to the West in trains, buses and cars after Czechoslovakia forged an unprecedented agreement with East Berlin to open its border with West Germany.

The first of eight special trains ferrying the East Germans from Prague crossed into West Germany at the Bavarian border village of Schirnding, railway officials said. "They were very happy to be here," one said.

The communist leadership reluctantly opened up a fully legal southern exit route through Czechoslovakia on Friday evening which effectively leaves a gaping hole in East Germany's once tightly sealed border.

Israelis criticise army justice in West Bank, Gaza

By Howard Goller
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Nearly two years into the Arab uprising in the occupied territories, Israeli human rights activists familiar with army justice in the West Bank and Gaza fear democracy may be the biggest casualty of the revolt.

They complain of a dual justice system which they say imposes harsh sentences on Palestinian activists and protesters while lightly punishing Jewish settlers and soldiers. And while politicians battle world criticism of the 22-year occupation, the army governing the territories issues new legal orders to justify its actions against the 1.7 million Palestinians living there.

"Compared to other wars of liberation, it's paradise here. Promotely I'd be ready to com-

pare it with China, South Africa — there is nothing to compare," Dedi Zucker of the Citizens Rights Movement told Reuters.

"But it depends what your standards are. If your standards are undemocratic, then even China is legitimate. But I have not intention of throwing my standards out the window," said Zucker, a member of parliament.

Opinion polls show Israeli attitudes towards the judiciary unchanged in the 23 months of the uprising. It is still the second most trusted institution after the army in a list of 12. But there are doubts.

"There are even two courts — one for Palestinians and one for Israelis," said Palestinian Attorney Jonathan Kuttab. "Not only is it a different court that tries them but totally different laws apply to them."

A U.S. government human rights report last February said courts trying Jewish settlers from the West Bank and Gaza were generally more lenient than military courts trying Palestinians.

In a recent case, a Jewish motorist attacked by stone-throwers in Gaza shot dead a Palestinian schoolgirl. He was convicted of causing death by negligence and received a seven-month suspended sentence. Prosecutors have challenged the ruling.

There are differences also in military trials of soldiers and Palestinians. Zucker calls it the difference between "a phillharmonic orchestra" and a marching band.

In the most publicised trial, three soldiers were jailed for six months for the brutal beating of a 43-year-old prisoner who later died. The court ruled their officers gave illegal orders

but none has yet been punished.

A protester can receive up to two years in jail without having hurt anyone. The army defends the policy, saying stones can kill and the sentences deter other would-be protesters.

What irks Palestinians is Israel's claim to maintain democratic values in a region playing by different rules. Kuttab assails a legal atmosphere that condones holding thousands of Palestinian activists for months without trial, demolishing houses of suspected militants and banishing those alleged to be leading the revolt.

Army officials admit shortcomings but insist their actions are legal under local and international law. They say nowhere else can a people under occupation take its grievances to the courts of the occupying

country. Thirty-five per cent of all supreme court petitions come from the territories. But these do not include challenges to sentences for "security offenses" which may be appealed only as high as military appeals courts created last April.

"We worry about our society and our morality. Of course we worry. Of course we are doing things that basically we don't enjoy," Colonel David Yahav, army chief of international law, told Reuters.

"But the question is whether we are taking legal measures to restore the public order, or not doing anything, and not doing anything means to commit suicide," said Yahav, formerly legal adviser to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Human rights groups assailed Israel for convictions based on

confessions written in Hebrew, a language many defendants cannot read. Palestinians allege they are obtained by torture or psychological harassment.

They also deplore the use of secret evidence from informers who cannot be cross-examined by Palestinian defendants.

But Yahav defends the use of secret evidence and that of limited physical and psychological pressure approved by a 1987 judicial commission report on the interrogation of prisoners.

"In the territories there is no democracy," he said.

Israeli civil rights lawyers are concerned at how Israel reconciles its handling of the unrest with democratic values. Yahav acknowledges: "From a political point of view, every action you take in the territories, half the people in Israel think it's not enough and half think it's too much."

Ethiopia renews diplomatic ties with Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said Saturday Israel would use its renewed diplomatic relations with Addis Ababa to secure the emigration of up to 20,000 black Jews living in Ethiopia.

Marxist Ethiopia, facing a mounting rebellion in the north, announced Friday it had resumed full diplomatic ties with Israel exactly 16 years after they were severed because of the 1973

Middle East war. "I hope the renewal of relations will positively influence our ability to bring to Israel the Ethiopian Jews who still remain there," Arens told Israel Radio.

"We will certainly take advantage of the possibility to speak directly with the Ethiopian government to achieve this goal."

In January 1985 Israel welcomed a secret airlift of some 12,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel

from Sudan in a mission called "Operation Moses." Israeli officials estimate that 15,000 to 20,000 black Jews, or Falashas, were left behind. Ethiopian Jews in Israel have frequently demanded the government get their families out of Ethiopia.

Professor Hagai Erlich, an expert on Ethiopia at Tel Aviv University, told the radio:

"It is an important and happy moment because there is no doubt that the first condition Israel set for providing aid and renewing relations is the reunification of families and the immigration of the remaining Ethiopian Jews to Israel."

Ethiopia cited Israel's 1982 withdrawal from Sinai, captured from Egypt in the 1973 war, and Israel's peace treaty with Cairo as reasons for re-establishing relations.

It also said the Palestine Liberation Organisation had recognised Israel's existence.

Analysts in East Africa had long predicted the Ethiopian move, saying Israel was likely to provide military aid to Addis Ababa in its increasingly ferocious war with rebels in northern provinces.

"The reason for the timing is internal Ethiopian reasons. Ethiopia is in a very difficult situation and is looking for friends in the West who will save it," Erlich said.

Arens said Israel could provide

agricultural assistance. "I don't know that we can solve the drought problem in Ethiopia but I'm sure we can help improve their agriculture."

Eleven African countries have now resumed relations with Israel and Arens said he assumed more would follow suit.

Defector: Rebel leaders seek defection

Meanwhile a high ranking defector from Ethiopia's rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said Saturday the TPLF leadership wanted the secession of the northern Tigray province. State-run Zemen newspaper quoted Gabre-Medhin Aray, the TPLF's financial head for the past 12 years, as saying that secessionist Eritreans had taken over the TPLF's central committee.

He said 16 out of 23 committee members were from Eritrea, a province fighting for independence through the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF). The TPLF has said it is fighting to topple President Mengistu Haile Mariam and set up a broader-based government.

"The TPLF is a surrogate organisation of the EPLF fighting for independence from Ethiopia," Zemen quoted Gabre-Medhin as saying.

Ibn Ali marks second year as head of state

TUNIS (R) — French Prime Minister Michel Rocard and officials from Europe, the United States and the Arab World arrived in Tunis Saturday to mark President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali's second anniversary as head of state.

Tunisia's ruling party, the Democratic Constitutional Union (RCD), is organising a two-day symposium on democratic change to mark the occasion.

Guests also included Italian Socialist leader Bettino Craxi, Soviet government spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov, former Yugoslav President Ljuzar Mijovic, Egyptian presidential adviser Osama Al Baz and representatives of the Democratic and Republican parties in the United States.

Ibn Ali, who had President Habib Bourguiba removed from power on Nov. 7, 1989, on grounds of senility, told the opening ceremony that Tunisia was determined to follow through the democratic reforms which he started when he took office.

He has released all political prisoners, legalised three new political parties, signed international conventions on human rights and tightened up procedures for holding suspects.

"Tunisia is firmly resolved to win the wager of democracy ... We consider that our people have reached such a level of consciousness and maturity that everyone and all groups can take a constructive part in running their affairs," Ibn Ali said.

But the leader of the largest recognised opposition party, Mohammed Moada of the Movement of Socialist Democrats (MDS), boycotted the ceremony in protest at the course Ibn Ali's democratic experiment has taken.

"He didn't want to be an extra in the show," an MDS leader told Reuters. No opposition figures have been asked to speak. In remarks published over the past few days, opposition leaders have accused Ibn Ali's government of failing to eradicate many of the authoritarian practices and attitudes common during Bourguiba's 30 years in power.

They also say the first general elections under Ibn Ali, in April this year, were not free or fair. The ruling party, which won all the seats in parliament, denies any irregularities.

"The process of change has reached a dead end and to break out of it we need some radical initiatives, initiatives which can restore confidence," said Moada.

In his speech, Ibn Ali said for the first time that he had sus-



Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali
pended the death penalty. No one has been executed in Tunisia since he took office.

1,354 prisoners freed

Ibn Ali has freed an opposition leader jailed for insulting him and two politicians close to former President Habib Bourguiba, official sources said Saturday.

They said the politicians — Jelloul Azouza, Mansour Skhiri and Mahmoud Belhassine — were among 1,354 prisoners freed under a presidential pardon to mark Ibn Ali's second anniversary as head of state.

Skhiri, a former minister of state at the presidency under Bourguiba, and Belhassine, one of Bourguiba's special advisers, were arrested on Nov. 7, 1987, the day Ibn Ali had Bourguiba removed from power.

Skhiri was sentenced to five years' hard labour and fined 50,000 dinars (\$66,000) for embezzling public funds, maladministration and holding foreign currency illegally.

Belhassine was sentenced to 10 years' hard labour and ordered to pay fines and damages amounting to more than 600,000 dinars (\$670,000) for embezzling public funds.

Azouza, who heads an unrecognised splinter group of the small Popular Unity Party, received a one-year prison sentence in August for disparaging the head of state and distributing a press statement without registering it with the authorities.

Tunisian opposition parties and human rights activists protested at the sentence, which they said was the first for a political offence since Ibn Ali took office, and formed a committee to support Azouza.

Ibn Ali did not cancel the fines of Skhiri and Belhassine, the sources added.

U.S. concerned over renewed Sudan fighting

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States said it was gravely concerned about the breakdown of a ceasefire in Sudan's civil war and warned that renewed fighting would hamper a famine relief effort.

State Department Deputy Spokesman Richard Boucher said that last weekend forces of the Sudanese liberation army attacked the government-held town of Kerma, which was then evacuated by government forces.

He also said that Tuesday two unidentified planes bombed the rebel-held town of Yiro.

"The United States government is deeply concerned by indications that the ceasefire in Sudan is breaking down," especially at a time when there were signs both sides were thinking positively about the peace process, he told reporters.

"The ceasefire was vitally important in allowing the movement of relief supplies into southern Sudan and averting mass starvation," he said.

A peace committee that met recently in Khartoum and the rebels own four-point peace plan offers possibilities for discussions aimed at stopping the war and restoring peace, Boucher suggested.

He said it was a good sign that "both sides' statements contain fresh ideas and that neither side sets preconditions." He urged them to meet again as soon as possible and negotiate a compromise in good faith. This year the United States has given Sudan \$145 million in food and other relief assistance.

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U.S. still hopes to seize Pan Am bombers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States still hopes to catch and bring to trial in the United States the terrorists who killed 270 people with a bomb aboard Pan Am Flight 103, CIA Director William Webster said in an interview published Saturday.

But at this point the government is unable to issue arrest warrants or seek indictments against anyone for the Dec. 21 bombing of the Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland, Webster told the Washington Post.

The investigation has been hampered by "too much discussion" in the press about the work of intelligence services in several countries, Webster said.

"It makes it very difficult to lay traps (that is, keep watch on) and find new evidence when people start reading about themselves," Webster was quoted as saying.

"And it makes countries and (security) services defensive. ... The assumption is: 'If it turns out to have been on board in my country, we will be accused of not having prevented it,'" Webster said.

There have been several reports that the plane was destroyed by a bomb placed aboard at Frankfurt's airport. Other recent reports put the origin of the bomb in Malta, before the plane proceeded to London.

Webster said the bombing led the Justice Department to focus on the legal issues involved in capturing suspects and bringing them to the United States. A recent administration directive, reversing previous policy, permits the FBI to make such captures without informing the country where they take place.

Meanwhile the State Department disclosed Friday it had discussed with Syria a possible terrorist connection to the bombing of the Flight 103 and was not satisfied with the Syrian response.

Spokesman Richard Boucher also said Syria was urged to "take action" against the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and other "terrorist groups."

Boucher said the talks with Syria about links to terrorist groups began before the Pan Am disaster. He did not say whether any specific group was suspected

of the bombing.

"The United States is not satisfied with the Syrian response to date," the spokesman said. "We will continue to press our concerns."

A seven-member presidential commission decided Thursday to look into Pan Am's allegation that 36 hours before the Dec. 21 crash, the Israeli intelligence agency warned U.S. authorities of a possible terrorist attack.

The commission also agreed to investigate Pan-Am's contention that West German authorities had reported "suspicious activities" at the Frankfurt airport within 90 minutes of the flight.

Congressman James Traficant said Friday an insurance investigator's report convinced him the CIA had been tipped in advance that terrorists might attempt to blow up Pan Am's plane, but remained silent. He asserted the report, which he did not release, concludes that the CIA was "covering up a drug run," protecting the terrorists' Frankfurt-to-New York heroin route in exchange for contacts that might lead to the release of American hostages.

The CIA immediately denied Traficant's charges and labelled the report as "nonsense."

Besides Syria, Boucher said discussions were held with "other countries which may have information about terrorist groups." He did not name the countries.

"As you know," the spokesman said, "the United States has repeatedly expressed concern, both publicly and privately, about groups supported by Syria, including the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. On numerous occasions we have asked Syria to take action against these groups, both inside Syria and in Syria-controlled areas of Lebanon."

Meanwhile, the spokesman for a Lebanese-American organisation said nearly 15,000 acres (6,000 hectares) of the Bekaa Valley, which is under Syrian control, are being used to produce heroin.

"They are doing this with the full knowledge of the U.S. government," said Joseph L. Boohaker, spokesman for the National Alliance of Lebanese Americans.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Football
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Local programme
18:20 Give Me a Break
19:15 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:40 Programme review
21:50 Local programme
22:40 Varieties programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
18:15 Loft story
18:15 L'ecole de l'été
19:00 News in French
19:15 Silence on Tourne
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Sorry
21:10 Doc. A New Day Revolution
22:00 News in English
22:20 Midnight Caller

PRAYER TIMES
04:32 Fajr
05:51 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:19 Dhuhr
14:21 'Asr

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assumption International Church Tel. 653326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
The country will be under the effect of unstable weather conditions. Thus it will be dusty and partly cloudy with

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

IRBID: Dr. Lawrence Badr (—) Al Shams pharmacy (985238) ZARQA: Dr. Farah Aghabawi (—) Khalifah pharmacy 985417	AMMAN: Dr. Nabil Al Maadi 615338 Dr. Decad Saghoud 689335 Dr. Mufid Tamour 884480 Dr. Adnan Zaghaf 898140 Firas pharmacy 661912 Ferdows pharmacy 778336 Al Asema pharmacy 637025 Nairwah pharmacy 624672 Al Salem pharmacy 636790 Yacoub pharmacy 644945 Shmeizani pharmacy 637660	EMERGENCIES Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Emergency 199 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777 Fire Brigade 891228 Blood Bank 775121 Highway Police 843402 Traffic Police 896390 Public Security Department 69021 Hotel Complaints 605800 Price Complaints 661176 Water and Sewerage 897467 Complaints 757111 Telephone Information (directory assistance) 0121 Overseas Calls 0250 Central Amman Telephone 0250 Reprints 623101 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101 Jordan Television 773111	HOSPITALS AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 818313/32 Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816 Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642412 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Malha, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shmeizani 6641714 Shmeizani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845845 Al-Munther Hospital 6672279 The Islamic, Abdali 66612751 Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646 Inhalim, Al-Mahajira 771013 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 7751126 Army, Marfa 8916115 Queen Alia Hospital 60224030 ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071 Jabal Amman Hospital (09)98732 IRBID: Princess Benna Hospital (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275 Jbn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100	RAJAH: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)33300-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 08:30 Cairo (RJ) 08:35 Jeddah (RJ) 08:40 Kuwait (RJ) 08:45 Sharjah, Doha (GF) 08:50 Frankfurt (LH) 08:55 Beirut (ME) 09:00 Athens (OA) 09:05 London (BA) 09:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 09:35 Chicago, Vienna (RJ) 09:40 Madrid, Geneva (RJ) 09:45 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ) 09:50 London (RJ) 09:55 Rome (RJ) 09:55 Baghdad (RJ)	DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 10:45 Rome (RJ) 11:00 Aqaba, Vienna, Rome (RJ) 11:20 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) 11:30 Istanbul, Vienna (RJ) 11:35 Cairo (RJ) 11:40 Kuwait, Doha (GF) 11:45 Laraca (RJ) 11:50 Baghdad (RJ) 11:55 Cairo (RJ) 12:00 Athens (OA) 12:05 London (BA) 12:10 Damascus (RJ) 12:15 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ) 12:20 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ) 09:00 Damascus, Paris (AF) 09:35 Rome (AF) 11:30 Kuwait (RJ) 12:05 Cairo (MS)	MARKET PRICES Upchower prices in lbs per kg. Apple 320 / 380 Banana 450 / 400 Banana (Makassar) 400 / 350 Beans 150 / 100 Cabbage 230 / 180 Carrot 230 / 180 Cauliflower 250 / 200 Corn 250 / 200 Cucumbers (large) 120 / 80 Cucumbers (small) 350 / 280 Eggplant 200 / 150 Garlic 200 / 800 Grapefruit 220 / 180 Grapes 450 / 400 Grapes (black) 500 / 400 Lemon 400 / 350 Mallow 150 / 100 Marrow (large) 120 / 80 Marrow (small) 220 / 180 Okra 620 / 520 Olives (dry) 650 / 600 Onion (dry) 230 / 220 Orange 180 / 120 Pepper (hot) 180 / 120 Pepper (sweet) 180 / 120 Potato 300 / 250 Spinach 650 / 500 Squash 240 / 180 Tomatoes 300 / 250 Water Melon 200 / 150
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ELECTIONS '89

By Narmeen Murad

OVER 6,000 bearded men and veiled women Friday attended a public rally organised by an Islamic movement in Mahatta street and listened to six of the movement's candidates discuss their election campaigns. What was most striking, other than the sheer number who attended this meeting, was a little boy who was introduced as a member of the youth of the movement, speaking on behalf of his generation and telling the fathers and mothers that it was their duty to ensure that Islam rules "to ensure the future of coming generations."

Many impartial onlookers wanted to know how anyone could use a little child to draw the sentiments of adults on an issue as important and sensitive to the nation as a national election. "Does this child know that there are economic problems and political threats on this country?" an observer asked.

A FATHER of a young child of seven told me Saturday that he found a number of candidates' election cards in his little boy's school bag when he returned from school. Many questions come to mind; are school teachers aware of this practice and condoning it?

ALTHOUGH candidates are loudly complaining that three weeks are not enough for candidates to know their voters, many voters say that it is more than enough. "Don't talk to me about elections, I have had enough of elections. I cannot wait for the moment when I will vote and finish with it," a voter said, but it should relieve many that the voter will at least vote.

AN observer said the other day: "I cannot believe that there are so many different political lines of thinking to choose from: I mean you have the '14th century Islamists', the '21st century Islamists', the leftists, the rightists and centralsists and they all seem to be saying the same thing."

Crown Prince, U.S. general discuss Middle East situation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The chief of the United States Central Military Command, General Schwarzkopf, was received here Saturday by his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in the presence of the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the situation in the Middle East, the no-war no-peace situation between Iraq and

Iran and the crisis in Lebanon were reviewed at the meeting. Petra said Prince Hassan spoke at length about Israel's repressive measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Prince also discussed Jordan's economic strengths — qualified manpower which can help the transfer of modern technology to other countries in the region — Petra said.

Jordan has begun close cooperation with the members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) in the fields of industry and technology, the Crown Prince noted. Schwarzkopf, who was received last week by His Majesty King Hussein, arrived in Amman last Wednesday on a week-long visit to the Kingdom.

Rallies, slogans intensify as election date nears

By Rana Sabbagh Reuter

AMMAN — Jordan's conservative Muslim Brotherhood, tolerated by the authorities for years as a counterweight to leftists, is flexing its muscles ahead of the first general elections in 22 years. The poll Wednesday will test the appeal of the Brotherhood's simple slogan, "Islam is the solution," after years of tight government control on political activity.

In the biggest rally of the campaign so far, six Brotherhood candidates drew a crowd of 7,000 on a football pitch in a poor district of Amman Friday.

Children wearing paper crowns inscribed with Islamic slogans and youths waving banners and the light-green flag of the Brotherhood listened eagerly to candidates' speeches.

"God is our aim, the Prophet (Muhammad) is our leader, the Koran our constitution and jihad (holy war) is our path," the audience shouted back to a young cheerleader.

Women wearing headscarves and plain clothes sat apart from the men. Young ushers organised the crowd.

The Brotherhood is fielding 26 candidates and backing at least 15 others, while their leftist rivals are mostly running as individuals.

His Majesty King Hussein banned all political parties in

1957 after an attempted coup. The Brotherhood, seen as an ally to the state, was left to operate quietly as a charity. But the state controlled appointments of mosque preachers and monitored their sermons.

"The picture has changed since the 1950s," a former interior minister told Reuters. "Radical parties have declined."

"Their slogans are outdated and their political experiments have failed," he said. In contrast, the Brotherhood and other Islamic movements can move the masses. They are present everywhere."

King Hussein's descent from the Prophet Muhammad has in the past helped blunt Islamic dissent in Jordan. The absence of regular elections has made it hard for the government as well as outsiders to gauge its strength.

The media launched harsh attacks on the Islamic movement in the past week over the issue of Toujan Faisal, a woman candidate campaigning for women's rights who was charged with apostasy from Islam in a Muslim Sharia court.

The case, unprecedented in Jordan, has been dropped.

Islamic candidates, who won four out of eight seats in 1984 parliamentary by-elections, want Jordan to adopt Sharia law and Islamic education system.

"We want Islam to have a say inside Parliament," candidate Majed Khalifeh told the

crowd Friday. Khalifeh's father, Sheikh Mohammad Abdul Rahman Khalifeh, founded the Brotherhood movement in Jordan in the early 1950s.

Brotherhood officials talk of controlling the new 80-seat Lower House of Parliament, but political analysts expect no more than a dozen fundamentalists to win.

The best-known Islamic candidate is not running on the Brotherhood ticket. Laith Shbeilat, a young American-educated engineer, reached Parliament in 1984 and won a name for his blistering attacks on the government of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

King Hussein said in an address to the nation this month that religion should be kept out of politics. "Religion should not be an avenue to power," he declared. "Jordan is an Islamic state, but we live in the state as one family of Muslims and Christians and will not compromise our national unity."

Muslim Brotherhood leaders say they intend to achieve their aims by peaceful persuasion.

"Our basic aim is to make the second article of the Constitution, which says Islam is the state religion, true in fact and not only on paper," said one. Ziad Abu Ghanimeh.

"But our principle is to try by argument, not by any other way. We are against violence and terrorism," he told Reuters.



Candidates' faces decorate the window of a barber shop in Amman. Photo in top-right corner is not one of the candidates (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

'Return to land' — election recipe for self-sufficiency

By Narmeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — On the peripheries of all the political debates among candidates and voters in Jordan, what seems like a minor issue is growing in importance in the minds of candidates and voters alike — return to the land and agriculture in Jordan as means of attaining self-sufficiency and overcoming unemployment and foreign dominance of the market.

The proper utilisation of produce and more economic support for farmers and peasants through an effective professional union are emerging as major demands, in the Nov. 8 election campaigns. Candidates feel the union will help Jordan improve the standards of agriculture in the Kingdom and also help solve part of the country's national debt problem. They say it will also establish the grounds for a return to the land to attain self-sufficiency for village families.

"We have to move towards the land," Third District candidate Walid Abdul Hadi, president of the Jordan Bar Association, says in his election campaign leaflet.

Abdul Hadi maintains that proper use of the lands' resources "will help combat unemployment and would decrease import of foreign labour." Daam Al Izz Al Shreim, a Fifth District woman candidate, said that the people of Jordan have "abandoned the land although we are all originally farmers." Shreim believes that reaching self-sufficiency in food for the three million citizens of Jordan "does not need a miracle."

"Villagers are now importing bread from cities and buying vegetables in stores after being the source of all food in this area," according to Dr.

Yacoub Zayadine, another Third District candidate.

Farming in the Kingdom, according to candidates and observers, face natural obstacles as well as problems in marketing and canning produce.

"The land in Jordan tends to lean downwards and we depend on the rain to irrigate our land," Radwan Aled Khalifeh explained in an interview. According to Khalifeh, a tribal candidate in Zarqa Governorate, rain water drifts with the land "and it disappears quickly." Farmers, said Khalifeh, need to build barriers to stop the water from flowing to the bottom of their land "and this costs money and needs heavy equipment."

The high prices of chemical fertilisers and seeds imported from abroad are, according to farmers, "placing a burden on small farmers who cannot afford them regularly." The solution, as seen by many farmers, is local manufacture of fertilisers.

But the reason cited most for why small farmers are not making any profits are the fees paid to middlemen who market their produce.

According to Balqa Christian candidate Dr. Sulaiman Suweis, "if a kilo of tomatoes is sold for 400 fils a middleman takes as much as 50 per cent of that as fees."

Suweis, in his campaign, has called for the establishment of farmers cooperatives "which would take on the duties of marketing the produce locally and would limit the role of these middle men."

Suweis also called for a "general union for small farmers and peasants established according to their needs which defends their rights."

Most candidates, interviewed by the Jordan Times on this issue, called for cancelling the debts of small farmers as a first step towards improving their situation. "They work all year, and end up losing money and that is

why they leave the land and look for jobs in the cities," Suweis said. Most farmers owe money to the government and government credit banks.

According to Mamdouh Abu Hassan, Third District candidate, "the problem really lies in the management of produce marketing and production." "We need modern agricultural coupled with a strong modern marketing policy," Abu Hassan said. He cited high prices for cargo shipment by the Royal Jordanian, the national carrier, as "a problem especially that charter flights for exporting local goods are banned."

He stressed the need to utilise farming in Jordan as a cheap way of generating income and combating unemployment. "It costs JD 45,000 to create a job for an employee but it costs only JD 10,000 to invest in a good agricultural project."

All these arguments boil down to a call for redirecting public spending from "infrastructure development investments to production development investment." Hamdi Tabbaa, also a Third District candidate, said.

"We have to give priority to projects which create immediate production," said Nadia Bushnaq, the only female candidate in the Zarqa District.

Farmers are calling for the establishment of tomato canning factories, jams and pickles factories as ways to stabilise the prices of vegetables at all seasons. According to Khalifeh, the establishment of such factories would mean proper utilisation of produce when there is over-production.

Problems in the agricultural sector are numerous and although candidates discuss these problems openly and propose solutions and explanations, many still feel that the return to the land and its products "is the only solution."

Court declines 'apostasy case'

AMMAN (J.T.) — A case filed at the Sharia court in Amman against a woman candidate running in the Nov. 8 elections has been rejected in accordance with Article 105 of the Constitution and Article Two of the Jordanian Sharia court laws.

The judge said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the case filed by two plaintiffs, Abdul Rahman Al Haj Ali Al Kurdi and Mutas-

sem Salem Fares, against Toujan Faisal was rejected on the grounds that it was beyond the court's jurisdiction.

The two plaintiffs had demanded that Faisal, an aspirant to the Circassian seat in the Fifth District be declared incompetent, her marriage dissolved and immunity be given to any person shedding her blood for her writings allegedly contradicting the Islamic faith.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ARAFAT CONDOLES KING: His Majesty King Hussein has received a cable of condolence from Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on the death of eight army officers in a helicopter crash near Ghazal, south of the Dead Sea Thursday. Arafat expressed deep grief on his behalf and on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Executive Committee and the Palestinian people over the deaths.

SHARIF ZEID MEETS THOMAS: Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Beh Shaker met in his office Saturday with Alan Thomas, director of defence services at the British Foreign Office, who is visiting Jordan. Sharif Zeid, Thomas, who is accompanied by several British officials, and British Ambassador to Jordan Anthony Reeve reviewed British-Jordanian ties and ways of bolstering bilateral cooperation in various fields. Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh attended the meeting.

ACC ECONOMIC PLANNING: Undersecretaries of ministries of planning in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) opened their first meeting in Baghdad Saturday to discuss proposals put forward by Iraq aimed at organising cooperation within the ACC in economic planning. The plan was explained to the meeting by Samal Majid Faraj, Iraqi minister of planning, as aiming at bringing about full coordination in planning matters within the four-member group.

PRIZES FOR DEPOSITORS: The Postal Savings Fund (PSF) has announced a total of JD 3,520 in 123 raffle prizes for depositors who have accounts with PSF's different branches in the Kingdom. According to a PSF official, deposits which earn interest at the normal rates in Jordan are being invested in various income-generating projects with government guarantees. The PSF is the only institution in the country which offers depositors loans for higher education, the official said. He said that each account carries a free-of-charge life insurance policy, and the depositing process can be done at post offices around the Kingdom.

AWARDS FOR ARTISTS: Minister of Culture and Information Nassef Al Majali announced Saturday that he would give special awards for artists associations and musicians in the Kingdom in a bid to encourage their activities. He said in a statement that JD 5,000 will be distributed to associations which normally support Jordanian artists and encourage their craft. Majali Saturday opened an annual art exhibition by students of the Fine Arts Institute, which is operated by the Ministry of Culture and Information (Petra).

FLIGHTS DIVERTED: Queen Alia International Airport Saturday was closed for arrivals and all the flights were diverted to the old airport in Marka, because of poor visibility caused by a sandstorm, a Royal Jordanian (RJ) official said in a statement. He said that the storm, which started at about 7:30 a.m. and lasted until 12 noon, forced the RJ to transfer five flights to Marka airport. As the storm extended to Marka area, the RJ transferred another plane to Damascus, he said. The storm, the RJ said, caused delay in eight departures to periods ranging between two and three hours. Traffic was restored to normal after the storm abated.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition by Foad Mimi and 'Ammar Khammash at Al-Husseini Foundation's Scientific and Cultural Centre.

* An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Qaddoumi displaying oil and watercolour paintings depicting nature in Jordan, at the Housing Bank Gallery.

* Islamic calligraphy exhibition at Jordan National Gallery.

* A fine art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* An art exhibition by Jordanian Artists Jamal Ashour, Hazem Al Za'at, Ghada Dakhla and Mohammad Al Jalous at Petra Bank Art Gallery.

* An Iraqi book exhibition at the Yarmouk University.

FILM

* A feature film entitled "Rain Man" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

King condoles Abbadi family

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday called at Al Abbadi family to convey His Majesty King Hussein's condolences on the death of Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Abbadi, who was killed in a helicopter crash Thursday.

Prince Hassan also called at Al Hussein Medical Centre and visited a Royal Jordanian Air Force pilot who survived the air crash.

His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah called at Al Harashkeh and Matalqa families to offer condolences on the death of Brigadier Saoud Harashkeh and Lieutenant Ibrahim Matalqa who were killed in the air crash.

'Advocates of democracy' urge gradual and careful approach

By Sana Atiyeh Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The future of democracy is one of the major subjects discussed in various forms and shapes at almost every forum in the run-up to the Nov. 8 elections; but writer Humi Ayyesh and physicist Hisham Ghaseeb have taken it a step further and took the trouble of researching the evolution of democracy throughout history.

After listening to the two for about one-and-a-half hours at a gathering at the Royal Cultural Centre this week, it was interesting to see many members of the audience posing questions with strong implications.

In the audience was the political advisor to His Majesty King Hussein, Adnan Abu Odeh, who addressed his first question to a member of the audience who had asked the speakers if democracy was taking its course in Jordan now, and whether the "intention" was there. Abu Odeh wanted to know what was meant by questioning the "intention" of elections.

The man in the audience explained that he believed that the local media had been trying to "discredit" candidates by attacking their slogans as being far-fetched and unrealistic. He pointed out that the previous evening on Jordan Television a reporter covering the elections "made a point of only interviewing those who discredit candidates' slogans, and women who said that they had received all their rights and that there was no need for women's rights."

In his reply comments, Abu Odeh remarked that Jordanian women had come a long way in acquiring their rights but faced a long way ahead of them. Abu Odeh wanted to know from the speakers their view of the

future of democracy in Jordan, keeping in mind the various sectors of society. Other questions put forward by some of those attending included whether Jordan was ready for democracy, whether democracy leads to awareness or awareness leads to democracy; how democracy should be taught in homes and schools, and so on.

Answering Abu Odeh's question, Ghaseeb, a physicist from the Royal Scientific Society, said Jordan "is a very complex society with many factors affecting this subject."

"Many things must be considered to know how the future of democracy in Jordan is," he said. "We must know our relations with foreign countries. Will these countries allow us to have a proper democracy?"

Ghaseeb added that those who want democracy must know they have to pay a price. "A step towards democracy would be to amend the election law because it is backward." "Hopefully, through the coming parliament, citizens will slowly gain their rights and general freedoms will take their course step by step. Both people and authorities must be careful during the process of democratisation and the entire process must be organised," according to Ghaseeb.

He said that the question whether Jordan is ready for democracy was not a legitimate one because the Jordanian people want democracy.

"How to go about democracy varies, but no method should be forced upon the entire population," Ghaseeb said. Ayyesh thought that Jordan is ready for democracy since "democracy is taking its course throughout the world and Jordan is not excluded." He said Jordan did not lack democratic activities in the past and referred to the profession-

UAE group in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A United Arab Emirates (UAE) organisation specialising in voluntary activities and programmes in the Arab World has signed a contract with the Ministry of Social Development to open a branch in Amman.

Under the terms of the agreement, the ministry will provide essential facilities to enable the organisation to implement programmes designed to develop social and humanitarian activities to benefit needy families in the areas of health, education and financial assistance.

al associations' politically-oriented activities.

"But democracy needs constant doses and booster injections to continue," he said. "Sweden, which is my ideal picture of a democracy, is continuously receiving 'democratic injections.' It is an on-going process. In progressive countries, they demand and protect animal rights. These countries did not follow a certain democratic form; they created it," Ayyesh said.

He went on to say that theories of democracy must be taught in educational institutions, and that they should also be implemented in the daily life of individuals and families.

"We don't know the true meaning of democracy directly; we only read or hear about it. Democracy is not practised in the homes with wives or children in this society. Participation in decision-making is essential in democracy. It gives people a feeling of being important and that they are providing for the country," the writer said.

Ayyesh said that political parties are necessary during parliamentary elections. He said that in England, for example, independent candidates never win seats in parliament, only party members do.

"If there are no political party representatives running in elections, how can we vote? How would we know that the candidates are not lying about their promises. If he belonged to a certain party, we would vote for the individual who belongs to the party and he would not be able to lie," Ayyesh said.

He concluded by saying that Jordan was going through a "learning process of democracy" with the elections, and expressed his belief that the atmosphere in the Kingdom is ready for the development of democracy.

Twelve held in drug bust

AMMAN (J.T.) — Twelve people from Jordan and other Arab states were arrested over the past two weeks following attempts to smuggle drugs destined for neighbouring states, the Public Security Department (PSD) announced Saturday.

The director of the PSD's anti-narcotics department, Colonel Ghaleb Zoubi, said the 12 were captured in two separate attempts to smuggle drugs. Both loads amounted to about 625 kilograms of hashish with a street value of about JD 187,000, he said.

In the first attempt, which involved five people, a total of 379

kilogrammes of hashish was seized from a home in the suburbs of Amman, according to Zoubi. He said the traffickers had stored the hashish in the house and started contacts to facilitate its transportation to another Arab country.

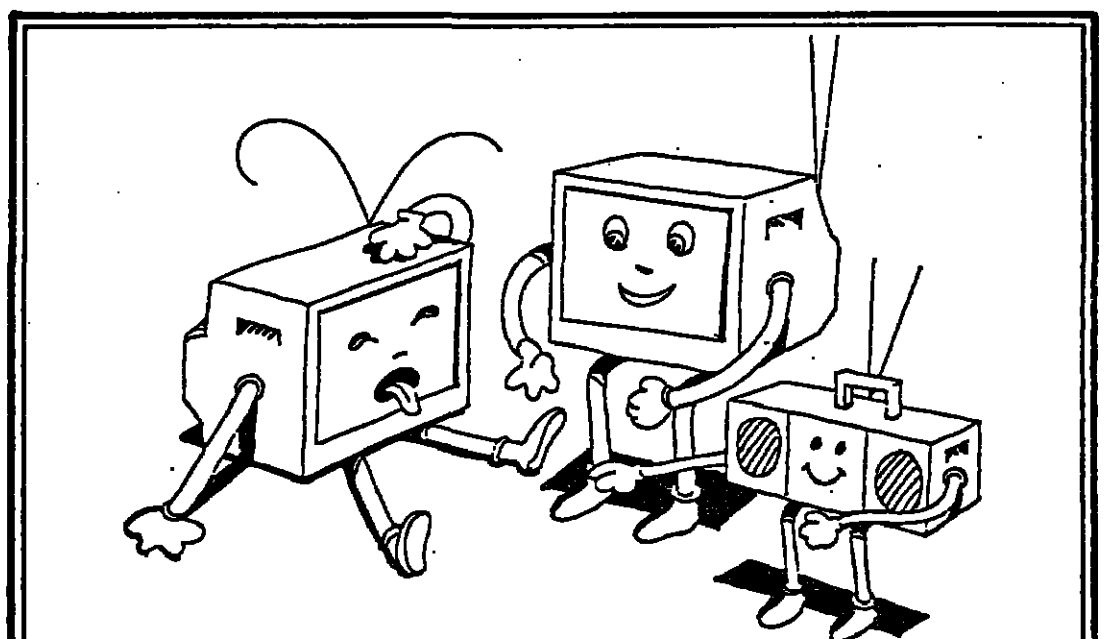
The group was placed under surveillance and through cooperation with the Egyptian authorities they were all captured in Amman and the hashish was seized, according to Zoubi.

The second group, seven smugglers, were seized with 245 kilogrammes of hashish being prepared for transport to another

Arab country. The shipment was stored somewhere in the Jordanian desert, Zoubi said.

Zoubi paid tribute to assistance from a number of citizens who, he said, helped to abort the traffickers' operations.

The PSD last August announced it had blocked attempts to smuggle drugs — 2,200 kilogrammes of heroin and 1.5 kilogrammes of hashish — into Jordan. A six-member group of non-Jordanian Arab nationals were apprehended by police during an attempt to sell the heroin which was concealed in a car and in underwear.



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Jordan Times

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How to remove the stumbling block

THERE IS now an international consensus matched by an Israeli consensus that as long as Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir stays in power, peace between his country and the Arab side, including the Palestinians, will never have a chance. Putting aside the diplomatic acrobatics being masterfully played out by Shamir to undermine every reasonable and balanced peace proposal ever conceived by mankind, Shamir is set on keeping Arab territories at any price for the Middle East region as well as for his own countrymen. Any peace initiative, no matter where it originates from and which may lead to Israeli trading off Arab territories for peace, is simply anathema to him and his fellow ideologues. Shamir's holding on to the West Bank and Gaza Strip is simply so doctrinaire that it borders on being religious. Against this backdrop all the current efforts being made to push the so-called peace process forward, whether in the form of Cairo's 10-point proposal or Washington's 5-point counter plan, are destined to crumble on the rock of Shamir's obstinacy. The remedy therefore becomes obvious in view of the diagnosis of Shamir's state of mind and the prognosis of what can realistically be retrieved: Shamir must go before peace in the Middle East can have a new breath of life.

Of course the U.S. can precipitate Shamir's downfall by withholding economic and military aid to Israel for even a short time. But this medicine is not in the cards now or ever. The Israeli and Jewish lobbyists in Washington have such a hold on the U.S. Congress that prompts one to dismiss as unrealistic the call on Washington to exercise a more forceful approach to Tel Aviv. Israel needs only to whisper for everything to fall in line in Washington in defence of Tel Aviv's requests. This is the nature of things in the U.S. Congress and as far as one can see not much can be changed there.

So the only viable option left to remove the Shamir factor is to hope that the Israeli voters will one day vote him out of office. As things look now, the Israeli electorate are hardening in the direction of the Likud Party. This explains the reluctance of the Labour Party under Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres to go through its long-term threat to leave the national coalition government. Peres and his supporters maybe entertaining the hope that the mood of the Israeli voters will change in due course in their favour. This appears to be the only hope for peace in the Middle East. Yet, on more than one occasion, the Arab side did not play its cards with that objective in mind. Much of Arab politics still play into the hands of the Likudniks who make a policy of exploiting every Arab move to their advantage. If the Arab World accepts the thesis that it has a vested interest in changing and modifying Israeli public opinion, then there must be a more concerted collective action and harmonisation of moves in order to achieve that objective. So far such Arab coordination has yet to manifest itself. Accordingly, the wisest thing that the Arab parties can do at this stage to emerge the search for an equitable peace in the Middle East is to strive to do just that with a view to affecting a real change in Israeli public opinion. To accomplish that feat the Arab World needs an inter-Arab think-tank group composed of Arab intellectuals and political scientists well versed in such matters.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday discussed Jordanian-Palestinian ties which, it said, contribute positively towards maintaining the momentum of the Palestinian people's uprising. The paper noted that Jordan's decision to sever ties with the West Bank, boosting the uprising and paving the way for the PLO to launch new efforts abroad. But the paper said the ties between the people on both banks of the River Jordan have been maintained and strengthened all the time since nothing can stand in the way of the unity of the two peoples in their drive to attain liberation for the Palestinians on their national soil and under the guidance and support from the Palestinian and Jordanian leaderships. The paper also noted that Jordan has served as a home for both the Palestinian and Jordanian people over the past four decades, moulding them into one united family with common aspirations and common goals.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily expresses support for a statement issued by the Palestine embassy last Wednesday in which it urged the candidates running for the Nov. 8 elections to refrain from involving the PLO in any of their campaigns designed to win voters favour. Fahed Al Faeek says that the PLO has taken a positive step by announcing that it has no intention of interfering in the elections which it considers as a purely internal affair. The writer says likewise no Arab country has the right to interfere in Palestinian affairs which must be tackled by the Palestinian people themselves. The Palestinian cause, the writer notes, is in no need of elements trying to benefit from the Palestinian infitade to achieve their goals, but rather supporters for the Palestinian cause in word and deed. He says that the Palestinians need to continue their struggle for the liberation of Palestinian land, and do not wish to interfere in any other country's affairs.

Al Dustour daily on Saturday discussed parliamentary elections in Jordan and the ongoing campaign by candidates to win voters favour. As the Nov. 8 election day draws near, one can only wish that the candidates and the voters alike behave in a manner that can reflect national unity and enhance the democratic process in the Kingdom, said the paper. It said that public awareness is indeed required now more than any time in the past because Jordanians are not only concerned over the election issue but rather about bolstering their country's defences in the face of the enemy.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

The Arab-Japanese connection

By Dr. Fahed Faeek

ON Sept. 4 and 5, 1989, Amman witnessed the first organised Arab-Japanese dialogue held at the level of intellectuals in cooperation between the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) and the National Institute for Research Advancement (NIRA). Some 50 leading Arab and Japanese figures took part in this exercise. Crown Prince Hassan opened the dialogue with some inspiring remarks:

— The mutual efforts in the framework of Arab-Japanese cooperation represent a successful example of how solutions can be found to overcome the difficulties and barriers resulting from economic variation among nations.

— The world's spirit of the time is towards big economic blocs. North America is one, European Community is another, Japan and the Pacific basin is a third. Therefore, the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and other Arab subregional cooperation entities are steps in the right direction. We should deal with the world as a region.

— Most of the world's problems arise from the negligence of the human element in the process of international economic development.

During the seminar, several papers were presented by Arab and Japanese specialists and researchers, dealing with various aspects of the Arab-Japanese connection in the fields of technology, economy, culture, management, modernisation, foreign aid, and trade.

The discussions revealed a keen Arab awareness of the rising importance of this modern nation, which became an economic and financial superpower in today's world. We realised that this economic and financial giant will eventually play a bigger role in the international politics, compatible with its huge resources and potentials.

It was pointed out that Japan is the single most important trade partner of the Arab World. It imports from their oil more than any one nation in the world. The Arabs in turn import from Japan more than they import from any other country including America. Only the 12 European Community countries combined can exceed Japan in this respect.

On the other hand, the Arab-Japanese relations across history were always clear and free of the bitter colonial memories. As a matter of fact, the Arab Nation has always admired the outstanding performance of this oriental nation which was able to rise from under the rubble of World War II, and accomplish a real economic miracle.

Work papers dealt with the successful Japanese experience in modernisation, which was based on the importation of technology, expertise and know-how, then pressing far ahead in all these fields. The Japanese experience stressed the human element and

put emphasis on education. The spread of education in Japan during the past century was higher than in Europe, despite the more advanced stage of Europe in industrialisation and economic growth.

It was evident that Japan stands ready to assist the Arabs provided they deal with Japan as one region, do their homework, and prepare the qualified persons who are ready to interact with their Japanese counterparts and rise to the required level.

Among the strong points that were highlighted were: Japan's dynamism and ability to penetrate external markets without military support or social ideology or political aspirations. Japan depended only on higher quality, lower prices, and better terms.

The five areas which were identified for Arab-Japanese cooperation were: Trade, oil operations, joint ventures, technology, and Arab investments. The Japanese system itself was also cited as a worthwhile subject for study as a useful example.

The four lessons that were extracted from the Japan's impressive experience were: (1) Modification of the current social relations instead of writing them off in favour of modernisation. (2) Maintaining the current elite so that they don't hold on to the past, thus landlords became company owners. (3) The clear vision and identification of objectives at the outset. (4) Maintaining consensus at the managerial and social levels.

Moscow sought summit to reassure Bush on reform

By Robert Evans
Reuters

MOSCOW — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev sought an early meeting with U.S. President George Bush to reassure him that reform in the Soviet Union could not be turned back, Soviet insiders and foreign diplomats say. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze could hardly conceal his delight when he told a Moscow news conference on Tuesday that the two would hold a summit on board ship in the Mediterranean on December 2 and 3.

"I have no doubt that Gorbachev pushed for this," said one foreign ambassador. "He was clearly uneasy over the long delay in getting together with Bush, and anything could have happened between now and next summer."

A Soviet official familiar with high-level thinking described the summit agreement as excellent news. "We see Bush under pressure from the sceptics and the people arguing that our reforms will fail."

"We have found that the last few summits have gone a long way to removing misunderstandings on both sides, and Gorbachev will certainly aim to convince him that perestroika cannot be turned back," the official said. Under an agreement

announced after Shevardnadze visited the United States in September, the two were to have held their first summit around the middle of next year — some 18 months after Bush entered the White House.

This would have been the longest gap between summits since Gorbachev and then-President Ronald Reagan agreed at their first encounter in Geneva in 1985 that the leaders of the two powers should meet regularly.

Moscow sat patiently throughout the new administration's policy review earlier this year. But there had been some signs of concern over the mounting debate in Washington over whether Gorbachev's perestroika reform programme might fail.

"We need to show the administration that this is not a win or lose situation — that there is no alternative to perestroika and that it is a long-term thing whose success will not be measurable in the near future," said one official.

At the news conference, Shevardnadze declined to say who had initiated discussions on what he described as an "interim summit" which would have "a deeply unofficial character," and help prepare for a full-scale meeting in Washington next year.

"The main thing is that the desire for a meeting was mutual both for Gorbachev and Presi-

dent Bush," said the foreign minister, who himself has played a key role in the warming of superpower relations in the past four years.

Only a week ago Shevardnadze won plaudits in Washington when he told the Soviet parliament that Moscow's intervention in Afghanistan a decade ago had been a violation of the rules of international behaviour.

He also declared that a controversial radar station in Siberia had been a violation of the 1972 Soviet-American anti-ballistic missile treaty as the United States had long argued, and suggested the Kremlin had been misled by its military.

The Washington debate on the future of perestroika has focused on how and whether the United States should aid Gorbachev to see it through — perhaps providing economic help to boost the reform process.

But in what was a clear reflection of Gorbachev's views, the foreign minister told Tuesday's news conference that talk in the West of helping the Soviet Union to overcome its economic crisis "offends our national pride."

Moscow wanted equitable and mutually-beneficial cooperation with the United States and other developed countries, but the Soviet people themselves had all they needed to make reform a reality, he said.

Rivals trade charges as scandals dominate Japanese politics

By Tetsuo Jimbo
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese politics is increasingly dominated by scandals, prompting concerns that the trend is creating a mudslinging match between rival parties.

Since last December, money and sex scandals have driven two prime ministers and four cabinet ministers out of office. And now, a scandal focusing on a Japanese pinball game called pachinko and alleged links through the industry to a pro-North Korean group is affecting national politics.

Analysts say the increasingly frequent disclosure of scandals reflects a change in public attitude towards politics, and that politicians are beginning to use the change in ethics for their own advantage.

"Much of what was commonly done in the political world has suddenly come to be considered unethical," said Yotaro Konaka, a political analyst. "At one point, politicians appeared to be baffled by the change. But now they are taking advantage of the situation to damage the image of their rivals."

Konaka and other analysts say political parties now are more inclined to attack other parties over scandals rather than political issues because "that has proved to be a more effective way of gaining public support."

Some analysts say the Japanese public has become particularly sensitive about political ethics because of the nation's economic success. The country has become far more prosperous, but many people believe the wealth is increasingly unevenly distributed — by means including the huge movements of money that long have been common in Japanese politics.

"Most Japanese are aware that the quality of their life has not improved as much as the country's economy and that makes people feel like they are being exploited by certain groups of people," said Soichiro Tawara, a political analyst. One particular irritation has

been a 3-per cent consumption tax pushed through parliament by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. Many people thought the government was asking them to bear a heavier tax burden while politicians were receiving huge political contributions.

During the Recruit influence-peddling scandal, which led to the downfall of former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in April, opposition parties fiercely attacked the Liberal Democrats for links to the Recruit Co., an information and publishing conglomerate.

Many influential Liberal Democrats were accused of receiving donations from Recruit in the affair, which began in the summer of 1988 and shook the foundation of Japanese politics for more than a year.

Then came former Prime Minister Souda's geisha scandal, in which Uno, who replaced Takeshita, was accused of paying women to be his mistresses.

In elections a month after the geisha scandal surfaced, the Liberal Democrats lost their upper house majority for the first time since their formation in 1955. The Japan Socialist Party, which campaigned on a platform calling for an end to the Liberal Democrats' "disgraced reign," made substantial gains.

Uno announced his resignation the day after the election to take responsibility for the defeat. He was replaced by Toshiki Kaifu on Aug. 9.

Governing party leaders hoped the Kaifu administration would help restore public confidence in the party. But two weeks later, the weekly Shukan Shincho magazine reported that Kaifu's no. 1 aide, chief cabinet secretary Tokuo Yamashita, had an extramarital affair with a younger woman.

Yamashita resigned two days later after acknowledging the allegation, and in an unusually swift move, Kaifu appointed Mayumi Moriyama, the first woman to hold the top cabinet post, as a replacement.

At about the same time, the Shukan Bunsun magazine began running a series of articles alleging that Socialist Party members received bribes from Pachinko parlor owners and in return watered down legislation regulating the industry.

The charges received little attention in other media until last week, when Liberal Democrat Koichi Hamada took the matter up in parliament.

Since then, the Pachinko scandal has become the main topic in Japanese politics, as the Liberal Democrats continue to attack the Socialists.

The Socialists, who feared the Pachinko affair might damage their recently won popularity, hastily conducted an investigation into the party's links to the affair and "found no trace of wrongdoing," Secretary General Tsuruo Yamaguchi said.

But the Liberal Democrats charged that Socialist Party members were linked through the donations to the pro-North Korean General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, which has close ties to the Pachinko industry. The Socialists have maintained a longstanding relationship with the Communist government in North Korea, while the Japanese government recognises only South Korea.

Konaka said scandals have become a particularly useful tool for politicians now that a large gap has been created between the ethical standards of the Japanese public and its politicians.

"What politicians are doing now is only revealing the reality of Japanese politics," Konaka said. "But most of them are bad enough to shock the Japanese public, which seems to be way ahead of politicians in terms of a sense of ethics."

"I don't think the disclosure of each other's scandals will stop for a while because too many politicians are involved in so many politically unethical businesses," he said. "It will probably continue until Japanese politics is cleansed to the standard accepted by other Western democracies."

Bhutto survives but not safe from opposition ouster moves

By Malcolm Davidson
Reuters

ISLAMABAD — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has emerged triumphant from an opposition attempt to ouster her but with her troubles far from over.

The opposition managed to muster only 107 votes for Nov. 1 no-confidence vote in the national assembly — 12 short of the 119 needed to defeat Bhutto.

Political commentators say that has given her a much needed breathing space but her 11-month-old minority government still needs the aid of members whose support is conditional.

Opposition leaders Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and Bhutto's arch-enemy, Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, made clear they regarded their failure as only the first attempt.

"It is the will and objective of the combined opposition party to shake the foundations of the corrupt, inefficient and inept government," Jatoi told reporters Nov. 1.

But the fact that Pakistan's fragile democracy survived the trial of strength has brought a collective sigh of relief.

"At least the best is that the whole thing began and ended on the floor of the national assembly. There was no recourse to street agitation or the army. I

think that is definitely a political plus," Mushahid Hussain, a respected political commentator, said.

Despite allegations on both sides of underhand or illegal tactics to win support, Pakistan's English language press hailed the exercise as a victory for democracy.

NEWS ANALYSIS

"If such be the performance of the assembly in the future, then there is every reason to believe that Pakistan's parliamentary system has crossed another hurdle on its way to becoming a true repository of the will of the nation," an editorial in the Muslim daily said.

Bhutto, who is expecting her second child, is the first prime minister to face a no-confidence motion in Pakistan where leaders have more usually been deposed by the army.

The military have ruled this overwhelmingly Muslim country of 107 million people for more than half of its 42-year history. The military deposed Bhutto's father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1977.

The late General Zia governed for 11 years, first under martial law then as president. Zia died in an unexplained plane crash three

months before elections brought Bhutto to power.

The 36-year-old prime minister and the first elected woman leader in the Muslim world faced vehement opposition from Muslim fundamentalists who believe woman has no place in public life.

For the present, Bhutto must deal with the political fallout of the past week and galvanise the government to deal with pressing economic and social problems.

Jatoi accused her during the no-confidence debate of presiding over gross corruption, inefficient administration and a breakdown in law and order.

Hussain said some of the accusations and criticism from within her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) were justified.

Bhutto herself admitted all the vote: "We may have made mistakes, we are not angels."

Chief among the gripe, according to Hussain and Western diplomats, is the difficulty of ordinary members and even junior ministers to get through the mass of advisers surrounding Bhutto to discuss their problem. The performance of many ministers is widely considered very poor.

Hussain, who believes Bhutto will wait at least two weeks before announcing a shakeup, said "I would think that eventually she will knock out about 50 per cent of these jokers."

Rise of leftists worries Brazilian elite

By Stan Lehman
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO, Brazil — Leftist candidates have gained popularity in the campaign for Brazil's presidential election Nov. 15, focusing attention on economic concerns expressed by conservatives and some top businessmen.

The conservative, pro-business candidate Fernando Collor de Mello, the front-runner in the polls, has slipped from a high of 44 per cent in August to 31 per cent in late October, according to a survey by the Brazilian Institute of Public Opinion and Statistics.

During the same time, pollsters recorded a sharp rise for Luis Inacio Lula da Silva, a former labour union president and candidate of the radical Workers Party, and a lesser increase for Leonel Brizola, a veteran populist of the centre-left Democratic Labour Party.

The institute's poll gave Lula da Silva 15 per cent in late October, up from 5 per cent in August, and Brizola 14 per cent, up from 13 per cent. Other private surveys had similar figures.

Conservatives say they fear chaos if the leftists win, and a flight of business and capital. Lula da Silva calls such worries nonsense. He says he supports "productive capitalism."

"The leftists' gain have strengthened the possibility of a runoff in December between the two top vote-getters — most likely Collor de Mello on one side and either Lula da Silva or Brizola on the other. A runoff is required if no candidate wins a majority Nov. 15."

The long-outlawed Brazilian Communist Party is in the race for the first time since 1945 but its candidate, Roberto Freire, has only 1 per cent of the vote in polls.

The bearded, 44-year-old Lula da Silva — popularly known simply as Lula, a nickname he legally made part of his formal name before the campaign — is the candidate who most frightens many of the businessmen and conservatives about the outcome

of Brazil's first direct presidential election in 29 years.

Mario Amato, president of the Federation of Industries of the State of Sao Paulo, is one of those deeply concerned about the election.

"If Lula takes office there will be chaos in the country," Amato said.

He predicted capital flight would increase and "800,000 businessmen will flee the country if Lula becomes president."

Edson vaz Musa, president of the Brazilian subsidiary of Rhodia, the French chemical and textile company, differed with Amato's outlook in an interview published by the Jornal da Tarde newspaper.

"Brazil will continue to exist and businessmen and government will have to adjust to a new reality," he was quoted as saying. "This has happened in other countries, such as France, and their economies were not destroyed."

In a television debate, Lula called Amato's statement an "imbecility." He said "productive capitalism" would be welcome in a Workers Party administration but not "speculative capitalism."

Lula has promised that if elected he will sharply raise workers' salaries and limit profits, nationalise banks, expropriate big ranches and farms for poor peasants, suspend payment of Brazil's \$110 billion foreign debt and restrict profit remittances by multinational companies.

Brizola, a former governor of Rio de Janeiro state who spent 15 years in exile during Brazil's 1964-1985 right-wing military government, favours what he describes as a European-style Socialism. But he also proposes expropriation of some private companies and non-payment of the foreign debt, much of which is owed to U.S. banks.

"I'll simply show up there and say, look, our people don't want to pay any more," Brizola told a recent rally.

Right-wing candidates have sought to capitalise on fears of a leftist victory.

"This is also an ideological election," said Paulo Maluf of the rightist Social Democratic Party. "We must repudiate Communism and candidates like Leonel Brizola and Lula, who are supported by Communists."

Jose Alvaro Moises, a political scientist at the University of Sao Paulo, disputes contentions as Maluf's.

He said in an interview such fears are "unfounded and exaggerated, because Lula and Brizola are not naive enough to want to destroy the capitalist system."

"He has made it clear that what he wants is to correct the distortions that exist in Brazilian capitalism — distortions that have led to extremely unfair distribution of income, low salaries and a almost total lack of social priorities such as health, education, housing and transportation, Moises said.

He maintained that Lula's popularity is due to "the people's desire for a change, for something new, for a president with no links to the corruption filled political past of the country."

Emerson Klayatz, president of a large plastic-products industry said, "a possible Lula government will be different from the one he has described in his past. He will have to tune into what is happening in the rest of the world, especially in Communist nations."

If the choice comes down to Brizola or Lula, some businessmen have said they would prefer Brizola.

"We could deal with Brizola because he defends capitalism and free enterprise. Lula doesn't," said supermarket tycoon Joao Carlos Passos Mello.

Carlos Alberto de Oliveira, president of the Commercial Association of the southern state of Parana, said Lula "defends Communist ideas that are out-of-date and this makes him even more dangerous than Brizola."

The 'Palestinian Uprising' goes underground in Washington, D.C.

THE AMERICAN-ARAB Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) made public two posters advocating Palestinian statehood. They are being displayed in the Washington, D.C. Metro system for one month beginning October 16, 1989.

The posters call on Metro riders to urge their congressional representatives to support Palestinian independence.

One poster portrays a Palestinian youth carrying the Palestinian flag superimposed over an American eagle with the caption "Americans fought for freedom and independence in 1776. Palestinians are fighting for these same rights today."

The other poster shows the Palestinian and Israeli flags with the caption "Palestine-Israel: Two Peoples — Two States."

This marks the third time that ADC has organized an advertising campaign in the Washington, D.C. Metro system on issues having to do with the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

The first campaign in 1987 was against the accreditation in Washington of Israeli Military Attaché Major General Amos Yaron who had, in 1982, been stripped of his command for three years after a finding by the Israeli Kahane Commission of culpability in the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

The second campaign in August 1988 focused on aid to Israel and Israeli human rights violations. The two posters centered around a graphic photo by photo journalist George Azar showing an Israeli soldier about to bring a rifle butt down on three cowering Palestinian women. One poster carried the caption "Israel putting your tax dollars to work!!" the other depicted a yardstick with "Soviet Union-South Africa-Israel, 1 Yardstick for Human Rights."

Last year's posters caused a storm of controversy as a result of efforts by pro-Israel groups to persuade the Metro Board of Directors to deny ADC the right to run the political posters. The Washington Post ran a lead editorial defending ADC's right to advertise and, within days of the opening of the campaign, the posters were featured by media throughout the country including CBS News and the Los Angeles Times. The Board of Directors voted to uphold ADC's rights in this matter. ADC News

AMERICANS FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE IN 1776.
PALESTINIANS ARE FIGHTING FOR THESE SAME RIGHTS TODAY



SUPPORT PALESTINIAN INDEPENDENCE

CALL ON YOUR CONGRESSMAN FOR TODAY'S RESOLUTION

Somalia campaigns to end female mutilation

By Fran Hosken

REMARKABLE changes are taking place in Somalia, aimed at eradicating the practices of female circumcision and genital mutilation, under the lead of the SWDO (Somali Women's Democratic Organisation) and AIDoS (the Italian Association for Women and Development). They have organized a national campaign, fully supported by the Somali government, against these damaging traditions, to which almost all females in Somalia — called "The Land of the Sewn Women" in historic texts of 16th century Venice — are subjected.

The outspoken president of the SWDO, Murad Garad Ahmed, who wields considerable political power, is determined to stop female circumcision and genital mutilation, not only in Somalia but also in the other 26 African countries or more where they still occur. The health of more than 84 million African and Middle Eastern women and girls is affected, costing the governments of their countries more and more every year as increasing numbers of women seek help in hospitals and

clinics, and hindering development.

AIDoS, led by Daniela Colombo and with the assistance of the Italian government, has worked jointly with the SWDO to develop strategies and teaching aids for all different kinds of programmes addressed to different sectors of the population.

In Somalia the severest form of genital mutilation is performed on nearly all females — infibulation. After the clitoris and labia are excised, the vaginal opening is closed by sewing or by scarification, except for a tiny opening, which may be no larger "than a kernel of corn" as tradition requires.

The operations are usually performed on girls aged five to seven years. At marriage the bride is inspected by the female relatives of her husband to see if the opening is small enough and intact before the bride price is paid.

Custom and tradition require that all girls undergo this ordeal, which has lifelong health consequences, and results in a considerable death rate, especially in child birth. Few Somali men will marry a young woman who is not infibulated and, since marriage is

a requirement for all in this 99 per cent Muslim society, the mutilations continue to be performed by almost all families.

The secrecy surrounding these practices began to be lifted only in 1979, when there was a seminar in Khartoum, Sudan, sponsored by the World Health Organisation and attended by nine participating countries including Somalia.

Thanks to the perseverance of the SWDO leadership, the campaign to eradicate infibulation and the other practices in Somalia is now a nationwide one, supported not only by the Ministry of Health but also by the Ministry of Education and others. The campaign is taking place in all the schools; it is discussed on radio and TV. No occasion is missed to create awareness among the population and urge families to end the practice of infibulation. The National Family Planning Programme organised by the government has taken up the issue along with family planning, and is teaching people to refrain from operating on their daughters.

A year ago SWDO and AIDoS hosted an international seminar in Mogadishu; there were repre-

sentatives from several African countries, including Egypt, Sudan, The Gambia and Nigeria. Egypt, with a programme sponsored by the Cairo Family Planning Association, led by Aziza Kamel, has the most extensive experience in conducting a multitude of successful local initiatives. But there are already many other projects under way. The Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children, founded in 1984, has affiliated groups in 14 countries and many more members all over Africa. Its Plan for Action is a model for other groups.

The successful campaign of SWDO and AIDoS was highlighted at the meeting as an example to governments and non-government organisations that the time has come to address these problems and to provide more international support. That these harmful traditions must be eliminated is a prerequisite for development and an international human rights issue. Most important, it is the wish of African women and men concerned about their children's health and future — PEOPLE Features.

The Third World and E. Europe

THE DRAMATIC changes now occurring in Eastern Europe are being watched with mixed feelings in many Third World capitals.

While the political implications of these developments are undoubtedly welcomed, there are misgivings over the economic consequences. Essentially, what most developing countries are asking is whether they will have to pay part of the cost of the disastrous four decades of Communist rule in Eastern Europe.

In other words, will some of the financial resources that would otherwise have flowed to the Third World now be diverted to help revive moribund East European economies?

Such concern is being voiced particularly among the developing countries which are linked to the European Community through the Lomé Convention.

Negotiations for the fourth of

these accords are now under way between the 12-nation Community and its 66 associates.

The Lomé ties are by far the most comprehensive of the EC's wide network of relationships with other countries and groups. They confer trade and aid benefits on the partner-states which include some of the world's poorest nations.

Although the bargaining is not yet completed, it is reported that Lomé IV will offer a better package than its predecessors. For example, it is said that loans and grants over the five-year term will total 50 per cent more than the current figure.

Unfortunately, however, given the population increases in the recipient countries, aid on a per capita basis could well be down.

Fears over the possibility that the East Europeans, especially Hungary and Poland, will represent a competing claim on the

EC's generosity may well have been sharpened by a recent announcement from the Community's Brussels headquarters.

This disclosed that the STABEX compensatory fund was running out of cash, and that consequently payments from it would have to be sharply reduced.

The fund was created to help insulate associates, particularly those critically dependent on a single commodity, against any sharp loss in export earnings. In practice, the beneficiaries have mostly been coffee and cocoa-producing countries.

The STABEX scheme has been placed in difficulties by the collapse of the international agreements covering these crops and the subsequent slump in world market prices.

This was not surprising given the recent production boom. Coffee output has been growing at

three times the increase in consumption, while cocoa's plight stems from a five-year glut. As a result, STABEX has been faced with demands that it could not meet.

For instance, the claim submitted by the Cote d'Ivoire, which relies on cocoa for up to 40 per cent of its export earnings, was greater than the sum left in the Brussels fund.

Last year its reserves totalled the equivalent of about \$400 million, and in July the EC agreed to an injection of a further \$240 million. Despite this, however, the fund has been unable to meet almost half of the latest rush of demands.

STABEX is not without its critics. They claim that by providing a cushion against violent price fluctuations, it has discouraged vulnerable countries from diversifying.

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Agatha Christie poised for 'killing'

"VOILA!" SAID POIROT, twirling the ends of his elegant moustache. "I, Hercule Poirot, unquestionably the most brilliant detective ever known, have at last solved a mystery that has confounded criminologists for more than 60 years." He paused briefly to smell the crisp carnation in his buttonhole. "I can now reveal that the person who — by shooting, strangling, poisoning, stabbing, and by other means too ingenious and diabolical to mention — has been responsible for the murder of literally hundreds of unfortunate people, is in truth the rather plain-looking wife of that well-known archaeologist, Miss Marple."

Between 1920 and her death in 1976, Agatha Christie wrote 78 crime novels, 19 plays, several non-fiction works, an autobiography, and countless short stories.

Her outrageous character, Hercule Poirot, short in stature but long in egoism, appeared in 33 books and 56 stories. The homely Jane Marple starred in 12 novels.

Miss Christie's most enduring play, The Mousetrap, has been running in a London theatre since 1952, and is thus by far the longest-running play in theatrical history. Its 15,000-plus perform-

ances have been watched by nearly eight million people, and have grossed about \$22 million.

Although quintessentially an English institution, Agatha Christie's popularity is worldwide. Her books have been translated into at least 44 languages and have sold more than two billion copies.

Such multinational literary trade elevates her to the higher ranks of world-scale big business. Possibly the biggest mystery surrounding the Christie legend is not one for detectives but for accountants.

No one has calculated just how many billions her books have made since Poirot solved his first murder case in 1920. Current royalties are believed to bring in

almost \$4 million a year for the group which controls the Christie interests, the Booker agricultural corporation and the author's descendants.

Interest in Agatha Christie's work is kept constantly alive by updated version for television and cinema. Recently an American corporation paid about \$8 million for U.S. rights to 33 titles.

And now the late Miss Christie is poised to make yet another spectacular "killing" — out of the celebrations to mark the centenary of her birth next year.

Commemorative editions of the books will abound, the plays will occupy peak viewing time on television and a crop of films will be revived or revised. — Lions features

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Soviets hold first currency auction

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union Friday conducted its first auction of foreign convertible currency, designed to give more state-run businesses access to foreign equipment and services.

The official TASS news agency reported that the auction took place at the Bank for Foreign Economic Relations, but did not say what the results were.

Such an auction could provide a more realistic picture of the value to the rouble against convertible foreign currencies than the high value supported by the government by showing how many roubles Soviets are willing to trade for the currency.

The rouble cannot be exported or traded on world markets for U.S. dollars, British pounds, Deutschmarks or other currencies.

Under the official rate, the dollar is worth only 0.6 roubles, but last week the government in effect admitted that rate was far too high. It set a new rate of about six roubles to the dollar for

tourists coming to the Soviet Union and for Soviets trading their roubles to travel abroad.

Even that rate is far below the black market rate, which fluctuates at a rate higher than 10 roubles to the dollar.

Similar auctions held recently in Czechoslovakia resulted in bids several times the official rate of 9-10 Czechoslovak crowns to the dollar.

TASS said Soviet enterprises that already have earned hard currency can sell it at auction to others that are interested in obtaining it to buy foreign equipment or services.

Soviet officials plan more such auctions, it said.

Currency auctions, TASS said, "will promote an accelerated introduction of modern technologies at enterprises of various sec-

tors, to broaden their export resources, raise the quality of output and boost the production of consumer goods."

"Auctions will become yet another step in preparing conditions for a gradual transition to roubles convertibility," it noted.

Estonia nears establishing own currency

Estonia's top economic official said Friday that the Baltic republic hopes to be able to establish its own currency system as early as the end of 1990.

Deputy Prime Minister Rein Otason also contended that the republic's drive toward achieving economic independence should help strengthen rather than jeopardize Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's efforts to restructure the Soviet Union.

"We think our policy in Estonia is not a danger to perestroika, but is an important part of perestroika," he said.

Otason, chief of Estonia's

Economic Planning Commission, spoke in Washington at a luncheon sponsored by the Institute of International Economics, a non-profit economic research organization.

He said that establishing an independent currency system would be very important for Estonia because "it is the only way for us to realize the benefits of effective foreign trade."

Asked how soon this could be achieved, Otason said that an "optimistic plan" looked toward starting it before the end of next year. But if more intermediate steps are necessary, he said, implementing the Estonian currency could take two years or longer.

Growth of East-West trade with the Soviet Union has been significantly hampered because the Soviet rouble is not freely convertible with Western currencies.

Otason said Estonia eventually would like to become a member of the European Common Market, although that would

probably pose "a very difficult political and economic problem."

The republic also may seek to join the International Monetary Fund, he said.

A year ago, Estonia became the first of the 15 constituent Soviet republics to openly defy Moscow by proclaiming itself "sovereign" and declaring its right to veto Soviet laws that conflicted with decisions of the local legislature.

Moscow rejected those claims at the time, but since then Estonia and the other republics have been granted broadened rights in running their own economies and setting local policies.

Otason said that in other economic areas, Estonia has reached agreement in principle with Moscow on establishing its own budget and tax systems.

He said Estonia wanted to retain its extensive economic relations with other Soviet republics, but "we in Estonia do not want to develop these relations through Moscow ministries."

Britain's reserves drop by \$2.9b

LONDON (Agencies) — Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves dropped by \$2.9 billion during October, the Bank of England has said.

The fall was well above the \$2 billion expected by financial markets. Traders said it indicates the heavy pressure on sterling during a month in which Britain seemed on the verge of a full-blown economic crisis and which culminated in Nigel Lawson's resignation as chancellor of the exchequer.

By comparison, September's drop was just \$142 million.

Traders said October's fall, high as it is, probably disguises the true size of the Bank of England's sterling support during the month.

Nigel Richardson, economist with Rowe and Pitman, Mullens and Co., explained: "The bank was also very active in the forward market so, to an extent, these figures cover up what the full intervention picture really was. The cost of these forward dealings will show up in the November and December figures."

The fall in the reserves is an underlying figure, calculated after payments to international organizations have been discounted. It excludes official repayments and new borrowing.

The Bank of England uses the reserves to smooth sterling's path on foreign exchanges. If the pound is rising too quickly, the bank will sell pounds and its reserves will rise. If the pound is under pressure, it will buy sterling and the reserves will drop.

The latest figures showed Britain's reserves totalled \$39.7 billion at the end of October, the British treasury said.

Meanwhile, Britain has rejected a Brussels plan for West European financial union, advocating a market-based alternative

sure to anger its European Community (EC) partners.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government, which says a federal-type Europe could threaten British sovereignty, rejected proposals for a single currency and a central bank.

A row over when to enter the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System (EMS) lay behind a long-simmering dispute over currency policy and Europe which ended last week with Lawson's resignation.

His successor, John Major, repeated Thursday Britain's commitment to eventually entering the mechanism, aligning the rates of a basket of West European currencies.

But Major told parliament that Britain rejected a plan for European monetary union by Jacques Delors, president of the EC Commission, as too bureaucratic and

lacking political accountability.

Major also published a paper setting out Britain's free-market approach, to be submitted to EC finance ministers on Nov. 13 and to an EC summit on Dec. 8-9.

"The Delors approach is centralist and ignores the market, ours is based on the market," an accompanying statement said.

The statement was agreed by the cabinet which reassessed a position agreed at the last EC summit in Madrid in July laying down Britain's conditions for entering the mechanism, government sources said.

These required Britain to cut inflation down to the EC average, other key EC members to abolish exchange controls, and progress on implementing a single European market due in 1992.

Lawson urged Britain two days ago to join the mechanism at the first practicable opportunity.

Swissair and SAS form quality alliance

AMMAN (J.T.) — Swissair and SAS have agreed on a comprehensive alliance to create a competitive, worldwide traffic and travel service system with a solid base in the European market.

Under the terms of the agreement, the two companies will develop a partnership covering traffic systems and travel products, hotels, trading activities, inflight catering and restaurant operations, fleet planning, aircraft maintenance, data and telecommunication systems and staff training.

The cooperation will also be underpinned by a financial engagement between the two parties. The exact arrangement is still to be determined, and could

take the form of cross-ownership, for example. It is envisaged that such an ownership transaction will be in the range of five to ten per cent, and will be effected during 1990. Representation on one another's boards of directors may also be considered.

Swissair and SAS also share the view that only strong European airlines — those with solid market bases and innovative products and services — will be able to provide comprehensive inter-continental services in competition with cost-efficient U.S. and Asian carriers in the 1990s.

The Swissair-SAS partnership links two quality market leaders. The key to the cooperation will be the coordination and development of the two airlines' global traffic systems, products and marketing.

Swissair and SAS will further review opportunities to integrate each other's hotels in the global travel service system. Swissair has 12 hotels, while SAS has 23 — of its own plus a 40 per cent share in the 105 hotels of the Inter-Continental chain, acquired last spring.

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarizes trading activities at the Amman Financial Market starting Saturday Oct. 28, '89 and ending Wednesday Nov. 1, '89. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	200	328	1.640	1.640	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	1200	2820	1.310	1.350	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	1309	1839	1.400	1.400	1.000
Housing Bank	16600	32719	1.950	1.960	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	2500	6625	2.620	2.650	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	626	16902	27.000	27.000	5.000
Bank of Jordan	1324	18535	14.000	14.010	5.000
Arab Bank	4950	106368	210.000	219.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	9395	23479	2.490	2.520	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	3250	11256	3.400	3.480	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Financial Investments	141227	253876	1.780	1.830	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	19949	51884	2.650	2.600	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Beit Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan French Insurance	26240	48240	1.840	1.820	1.000
Jordan Insurance	7400	18493	2.500	2.500	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Yamouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	9190	13622	1.400	1.520	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Arabia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahlia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	500	500	1.050	1.000	1.000
United Insurance	900	1053	1.230	1.170	1.000
Services and industries					
General Investments	200	250	1.250	1.250	1.000
Imma for Investment and Financial Facilities	—	—	—	—	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	21800	22486	1.030	1.030	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	12125	7342	0.610	0.600	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	184223	74263	0.390	0.390	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	138504	22780	0.650	0.670	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeero	7048	2579	0.870	0.870	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	10350	14300	1.400	1.350	1.000
Irbit District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab International Hotels	138496	229626	1.630	1.670	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Middle East and Commodore Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	198900	498236	2.510	2.570	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	500	1500	3.000	3.000	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	150	245	1.650	1.630	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Dairy	197856	265392	1.240	1.320	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	50248	253144	4.810	5.000	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	594990	1668528	2.630	2.850	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	8620	35660	4.100	4.150	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intag)	297756	658760	2.150	2.280	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	7369	48093	6.570	6.400	1.000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Aladdin Industries	9250	29128	3.100	3.170	1.000
Arab Aluminum Manufacturing	110200	257508	2.160	2.350	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	348	1785	5.200	5.150	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	19162	51892	2.740	2.750	1.000
Chemical Industries	3550	7507	2.200	2.300	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	46000	72891	1.600	1.580	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	13402	49549	3.680	3.770	1.000
National Steel Industries	7100	17736	2.460	2.540	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	41590	186366	4.440	4.450	5.000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	17192	136154	7.900	7.970	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	87800	11047	0.120	0.130	1.000
National Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Investment and International Trade	47400	27063	0.580	0.570	1.000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	19756	66447	3.420	3.400	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	49115	146336	2.880	3.000	1.000
Rafid Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	1944	12860	6.800	6.750	1.000
Jordan Rockwood Industries	249450	528083	1.930	2.140	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tanning	—	—	—	—	5.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	3000	55500	18.500	18.500	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	123627	274341	2.210	2.220	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	14600	62055	4.200	4.200	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	483215	127571	2.440	2.690	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	277178	734415	2.580	2.670	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	141075	139820	0.990	0.990	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	253924	325824	1.230	1.310	1.000
Jordan Precast Concrete Industry	403131	262150	0.620	0.630	1.000
Grand total	4,541,267	10,096,978			

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Hawke intervenes in sheep trade

CANBERRA (R) — Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke has appealed to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to help restore the live sheep trade between the two countries. Hawke, in a letter to the king, sought an end to the deadlock over Saudi Arabian charges that recent shipments of Australian sheep were diseased. Australia suspended the trade in August after some 300,000 sheep were rejected by Saudi Arabia, which said the consignments were infected with blue tongue or sheep pox. Australia said the sheep were not infected. Australian government sources said contact between the two sides since August had failed to resolve the dispute. Australian sheep prices have tumbled amid the uncertainty, with weathers (castrated rams) falling to around 10 dollars (eight U.S.), half the price in August. Saudi Arabia has traditionally taken half the seven million live sheep, valued at a total of 230 million dollars (\$173 million), that Australia annually ships to the Middle East.

Mayor fails to up UNESCO budget

PARIS (R) — UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor failed Thursday in his bid to increase the U.N. cultural agency's budget. A general conference voted in favour of a "zero real growth" spending programme. UNESCO sources said delegates adopted a two-year provisional budget ceiling of \$380.9 million without a vote. The figure is due to receive final approval before the meeting ends Nov. 16. The sum includes an extra \$10.2 million for executive-level pay rises which are expected to be fixed in New York for all U.N. agencies. But the budget falls \$9.1 million short of Mayor's target and will force the Spanish director general to cut agency activities by some 2.5 per cent. "A cut of 2.5 per cent in real programme resources is by any name negative growth, not zero growth," Mayor said before the debate, adding that decisions taken by the general conference would not be fully implemented. The organisation lost 30 per cent of its income when the United States and Britain pulled out in 1984 and 1985, complaining of mismanagement and anti-Western bias.

Moscow seeks Arab investments

ABU DHABI (R) — The Soviet Union has invited Gulf Arab businessmen to Moscow to discuss ways of setting up joint ventures, a Soviet embassy spokesman has said. He said the Nov. 14-16 meeting was aimed at "boosting cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Gulf and exploring the possibility of setting up joint industrial ventures." Four of the six Gulf Cooperation Council members — Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman — have diplomatic ties with Moscow, while Saudi Arabia and Bahrain do not.

S. Korea suffers new setback

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea registered a trade deficit of \$101 million in October, reflecting the country's economic sluggishness, according to government figures. Preliminary tallies by the trade and industry ministry showed another trade deficit in October, the fifth monthly setback this year, casting a cloud on South Korea's export-oriented economy. Exports in October stood at \$5,292 billion, a mere 0.7 per cent increase from a year earlier, while imports increased sharply to \$5,393 billion, up 20 per cent from last October. South Korea's strong economic growth, which began in 1986, stopped this year because of prolonged labour disputes, trade conflicts and sluggish exports. Government officials said exports at the end of the year would remain under a government target of \$68 billion. Despite the gloomy forecast, South Korea has recorded a trade surplus of \$71 million so far this year.

Gulf Air buys 12 Airbus

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain-based Gulf Air had signed a \$500 million contract with the European consortium Airbus Industrie to buy 12 new aircraft. A Gulf Air spokesman said the deal was part of the regional carrier's five-year plan to purchase 18 new aircraft costing \$1 billion. Gulf Air would take delivery of the 12 Airbus A-320s between 1992 and 1994, he said. It had also taken options on six Airbus, but had not yet decided on the type of engine. Airline officials would go to Tokyo Nov. 4 to seek loans from Japanese banks to help to finance the deal, he said. Gulf Air said early in October it planned to finalise a \$400 million syndicated loan in 1990 to buy six Boeing 767s-300s. The airline is owned by the governments of Bahrain, Oman and Qatar and the emirate of Abu Dhabi. Emirates Airlines of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates said last week it would buy five Airbus as part of its plan to double cargo and passenger capacity by mid-1991.

Poles receive harsh price blows

WARSAW (R) — The Polish government has increased home electricity charges by 150 per cent and doubled gas prices in the latest blow to ordinary Poles hit by the economic crisis. The official news agency PAP said the increases were intended to bring unrealistically low energy charges into line with production costs and compensate for a rise in coal prices. The Solidarity newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza said postal charges would rise by about 130 per cent and the cost of a private telephone call would more than double. Annual inflation is approaching 300 per cent and the cost of basic foods such as bread, milk, cheese, meat and butter have rocketed since government price controls were lifted in August.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday November 4, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	100.7	101.7
U.S. dollar	630.0	636.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	439.5	443.9
Pound Sterling	987.9	997.8	Dutch guilder	371.9	384.9
Deutschmark	340.9	344.3	Swedish crown	97.8	98.8
Swiss franc	389.0	392.9	Italian lira (for 100)	46.4	46.9
			Belgian franc (for 10)	163.2	164.8

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"We never worry about burglars. Stanley's stomach growls so loud, the whole neighborhood thinks we have a Doberman."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob

Nicaragua talks delayed as troops continue attack

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Delays by both sides and Honduras' refusal to participate have scotched plans for a meeting between Nicaraguan rebels and Sandinista government representatives at U.N. headquarters.

Meanwhile, in remote Nicaragua, the civil war, said he wanted to delay the meeting until Thursday and Friday. He also insisted that Honduran government officials take part.

Honduras, which had declined the invitation Wednesday, again refused.

"The problem of the anti-Sandinista rebels is Nicaragua's," Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras said late Friday. "It is a conflict among Nicaraguans, and it corresponds to the Nicaraguans to resolve it."

A rebel source in Costa Rica said hundreds of contra guerrillas were retreating to their camps across the border in Honduras.

"Our soldiers scarcely have any ammunition and can't confront an army as powerful as the Sandinistas that is using all of its forces to annihilate us," the source said. He refused to be identified.

He said the guerrillas remain-

ing in Nicaragua had been ordered to take cover in inaccessible places.

Nicaraguan army Col. Manuel Salvatierra, commander of troops in the northern provinces of Jinotega and Matagalpa, disputed the rebel claims, contending the contras "have all they need to fight."

"The contras, although they are on the wrong side, are not so stupid as to infiltrate the country without weapons and without ammunition," Salvatierra said in Matagalpa.

He contended the guerrillas had devised a weapons stockpiling system before the United States cut off lethal aid to them in February 1988. The United States is still providing the contras with non-lethal aid, which includes boots and uniforms.

A hospital official in Jinotega, 168 kilometres north east of Managua, said 14 soldiers had been treated there for battle wounds this week.

Soldiers seen by reporters suffered minor wounds from grenade shrapnel and mortars fired by the retreating rebels.

U.S., Soviets mark end of cold war

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States and the Soviet Union have co-sponsored a resolution at the United Nations in a gesture to mark the end of cold war rhetoric waged on the floor of the world body for so many years.

The General Assembly resolution is the first joint document from the two superpowers that calls on all nations to respect human rights and abandon the use of force except in self-defence.

While diplomats expect the resolution itself to have little effect,

the fact it was drawn up with great fanfare signalled a commitment to the organisation by both countries.

It also officially sanctions the end of an era of confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union, which has receded in recent years, largely due to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of "glasnost" or openness.

However, the first doubts were raised by the Arab League's representative at the United Nations within hours of the American-Soviet joint news conference.

U.S. reaffirms active military role in Pacific

SYDNEY (R) — The United States reaffirmed Saturday its intention of playing an active military role in the Pacific and signed a 10-year defence cooperation pact with Australia.

The agreement, renewing an earlier five-year treaty, was signed at the end of two days of talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and their Australian counterparts.

A joint communiqué noted that the current reduction in superpower tensions would not necessarily produce a more tranquil Asia-Pacific region and did not justify the United States reducing its presence here.

"I very much welcome... the assurances from the U.S. that despite the stringencies of its defence budget, the U.S. is not contemplating any reduction of its forward deployment in our region," Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said.

The logistics support agreement signed by the two countries would give Australia greater access to U.S. high-technology weapons systems, Australian Defence Minister Kim Beazley said.

Two areas of disagreement surfaced over U.S. ties with New Zealand and Australia's advocacy of a nuclear free zone in the South Pacific.

The United States reaffirmed its opposition to remove restrictions on defence contacts with New Zealand.

The limitations were instituted in 1985 after Wellington demanded assurances that U.S. warships visiting its ports would not carry nuclear weapons.

Asked if Washington was closing the door on New Zealand, Baker told a news conference: "The door is not moving one way or the other. The door is staying exactly where it was when we arrived here."

He said Washington's policy of neither confirming nor denying whether its ships were carrying nuclear arms was fundamental and many of its allies depended on it.

Australia is co-sponsoring a United Nations resolution to declare the South Pacific a nuclear free zone and Australian officials said they gained a strong impression from the talks that Washington would abstain rather than vote against it.

'Confident' Aquino leaves for Canada, U.S.

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino, declaring confidence in the security of her government, left for state visits to Canada and the United States Saturday hours after opposition marchers clashed in Manila with riot troops.

In a departure statement, she said the march by followers of the late President Ferdinand Marcos proved that "people power" needed a moral purpose to succeed.

"I depart as always with confidence that the safety of the government is assured in the care of the people," Aquino declared before flying to Vancouver, the first stop on an eight-day tour.

Philippine troops fired teargas and water cannons early Saturday to disperse crowds of Marcos supporters who demonstrated through the night outside a military camp in Manila.

Five thousand protesters staged the all-night vigil after 25,000 Marcos followers mounted show of strength in the capital Friday, witnesses said.

The marchers urged Aquino to reverse a ban preventing the family of the deposed leader from bringing his body home from Hawaii where he died in exile on Sept. 28. Aquino has justified the ban, saying the body could be used as a rallying point against her government.

The 56-year-old widow, who ended Marcos's 20-year authoritarian rule with a four-day "people power" revolt, said in her statement the Marcos loyalists showed they could not copy her tactics.

"The events this morning underscore an important truth. People power is not a political technique. It is a selfless action for a moral purpose," Aquino said.

97 missing as U.S. drilling ship capsizes off Thailand

BANGKOK (R) — A U.S. drilling ship capsized in a typhoon off Thailand with 97 people on board but the owners said rescuers tapping on the upturned hull Saturday had found no immediate sign of life there.

A spokeswoman for the owners said she could not confirm reports that survivors had been spotted in the water near the vessel.

The gas-drilling ship Seacrest was found capsized Saturday in the Gulf of Thailand after typhoon Gay tore through the area with 160 kilometre-per-hour winds and waves the size of a two-storey house.

The 351-foot (107-metre) vessel, which lost contact with the shore Friday afternoon, was hit by what the Thai Meteorological office called the worst typhoon in the gulf for 35 years.

The Seacrest crew included 64 Thais, eight Singaporeans, seven Americans, four Australians, four Britons, three Canadians,

two Filipinos, two Danes, one West German, one Italian and one New Zealander.

Unocal said it planned to use two diving teams from the Thai Navy and a remote control submarine to examine the hull in the search for survivors.

Gas produced by Unocal generates more than half of Thailand's electricity.

Typhoon Gay moved out of the gulf Saturday and crossed southern Thailand into the Andaman Sea where it was downgraded to a tropical storm.

A Thai official said it left behind high seas which were hampering rescue work around the Seacrest.

Cambodian rebels claim victories

BANGKOK (AP) — The Khmer Rouge claims that Phnom Penh, aided by Vietnamese troops and Soviet advisers, plans a counterattack to regain control of a key Cambodian city and Route 10, a major highway to the nation's gem-mining centre.

The city, Pailin, was seized on Oct. 22 by Khmer Rouge guerrillas, who since have claimed a string of victories in their most potent offensive of the 11-year-old war in Cambodia.

In a lengthy statement summing up the past six months of the rainy season, the Khmer Rouge claimed to have killed or wounded 17,200 Vietnamese and Cambodian government troops

and put 11,000 others "out of action."

The statement was issued last Wednesday by Son Sen, commander-in-chief of the Khmer Rouge military, and read over the clandestine guerrilla radio. A transcript was made available Saturday.

Over the past three months, the statement claimed, the Soviet Union shipped 49,000 tonnes of armaments and ammunition through the Cambodian seaport of Kompong Son to its allies. Last month, the statement said, Soviet advisers flew to the western city of Battambang to help the government forces plan for a counterattack against the Khmer Rouge.

Battambang, the country's second largest city, is a major target of the Khmer Rouge drive, which began with the capture of Pailin, located to the south west along the Thai-Cambodian border.

The guerrillas claim to have moved up towards Battambang along Route 10 and to have staged attacks against National Highway 5, which connects the city to Phnom Penh, the capital.

Western analysts regard Khmer Rouge battlefield claims as exaggerated and sometimes fabricated. However, there has been general confirmation of the fall of Pailin and some other recent successes of the guerrillas.

Colombian rebels to surrender weapons in public ceremony

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — The leader of a leftist guerrilla group that has signed a peace agreement with the government has said his troops will surrender their weapons in a public square in Cali mid-December.

Carlos Pizarro Leongomez, commander of the April 19 Movement, said in a televised interview that the rebels will turn their weapons over to the International Red Cross on Dec. 16.

Cali, a city of about 1 million people, is about 80 kilometres north of the guerrillas' base camp in the Andes Mountains of south west Colombia.

The guerrillas and the government signed a peace agreement last month, and there was a ceremonial signing in the capital of Bogota Thursday night. Another ceremonial signing, at the guerrilla camp, is scheduled for Monday.

The government has agreed to give the guerrillas amnesty, and promises them up to 16 seats in Colombia's 315-member congress in future elections.

None of the country's other five guerrilla groups are negotiating with the government.

The government and its security forces have claimed for years

that guerrilla groups, especially the April 19 Movement, work in tandem with drug traffickers. But neither the government nor the army has ever produced convincing proof of those claims.

Guerrilla field commanders have told the Associated Press that the rebels try to discourage growing of coca bushes for cocaine, but they say they cannot force peasant sympathisers to stop.

Many peasants join guerrilla combat units for only weeks at a time, and grow coca bushes to supplement cash earnings that often are less than \$50 a month.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Kidnapped nun freed in Guatemala

GUATEMALA (AP) — A U.S. nun who disappeared from a retreat house in Guatemala after receiving a series of threatening letters was freed Friday, church officials said. "Thanks be to God, everything turned out well," said Monsignor Orlando Quicchi, the Papal Nuncio. He and Archbishop Prospero Penados de Barrios said Sister Diana Ortiz was freed Friday morning in downtown Guatemala city. They declined to give details of her disappearance and U.S. consular officials were not allowed to see her. "They said she was resting," embassy spokesman James Dickmeyer said. Ortiz was at the Maryknoll House in Guatemala City. "We're very concerned to get to the bottom of this," Dickmeyer said.

Liechtenstein to apply for U.N. membership

VADUZ, Liechtenstein (AP) — Liechtenstein plans to seek full membership in the United Nations, the government announced Friday, saying that's the best way to ensure the principality is recognised internationally as a sovereign state. Liechtenstein has direct diplomatic representation only in neighbouring Austria and Switzerland, and in the Vatican. Its consular interests in most other countries are represented by Switzerland, linked to Liechtenstein in a customs union. After World War I, the League of Nations, the forerunner to the United Nations, denied Liechtenstein admission because it has no army, then a characteristic of sovereign states. In recent decades, it has become a member of several U.N. agencies, including the World Health Organisation and the International Court of Justice, and has joined the Council of Europe and signed the Helsinki Act of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

21 die in China alcohol poisoning

HONG KONG (R) — Twenty-one people in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong have died in the last three days after drinking industrial alcohol, and a further 78 are in hospital, the China News Service (CNS) said Saturday. Four men have been arrested for distilling and selling the killer brew, according to a report from the quasi-official news agency monitored in Hong Kong.

Yeltsin says Gorbachev has become new right

MOSCOW (AP) — Maverick politician Boris Yeltsin has launched a frontal attack on President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, accusing him of taking on the role of top conservative in the Soviet leadership.

Referring to a hardline politician, Yeltsin said, "if before, Yegor Ligachev was at the head of the right, now it has become Gorbachev."

Yeltsin, who claimed he is virtually banned from television and the Soviet press, made the accusation before an overflow crowd of more than 1,000 people at a public forum for leaders of the Soviet parliament's opposition faction.

He also charged that at least four lavish dachas, costing "tens of millions of rubles" (dollars), have been built in recent years for Gorbachev.

Gorbachev has acknowledged one such summer home was built on the Black Sea, but he insisted it was for his use only while in

office and would not remain his personal vacation spot.

Yeltsin said Gorbachev, his one-time sponsor, was clamping down on the press and had personally forbidden the opposition faction to put out its own newspaper.

Gorbachev "openly threatened the press, pointing his finger," Yeltsin said, referring to an Oct. 13 meeting at which the Soviet leader rebuked several top editors and suggested the chief of the country's most popular newspaper resign.

Gorbachev launched glasnost, the Kremlin's policy of greater openness, soon after coming to power in 1985, but in recent weeks has moved to rein in the free-wheeling press. According to accounts of the closed-door meeting, he chastised the editors for presenting too frightening a picture of the country's problems and demanded they offer solutions to problems, not just criticism.

Gloom falls over Gandhi camp prior to elections

NEW DELHI (R) — Gloom has settled over Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's house, nerve centre of his Congress Party campaign for India's elections this month, as he struggles to regain the initiative from a united opposition.

Gandhi has not yet even released his party's manifesto, the usual first step in a campaign. Its issue has been delayed three times and is again rescheduled for Monday.

Instead the Indian leader started his campaign Friday with a controversial direct appeal to the Hindu majority, promising to restore to India a mythical kingdom of the Hindu deity, Ram.

"There is unhappiness especially among the young in the Congress," said a Congress leader. "There were not enough of them selected for the elections. Even the inability to release the manifesto is seen as Rajiv's weakness."

He said Gandhi's appeal to Hindus, representing 650 million of India's 800 million people, was a last ditch move to wrest the initiative back from the opposition.

Gandhi made the appeal only a short distance from the spot in Ayodhya, in Uttar Pradesh state, where Hindus and Muslims are locked in dispute over a shrine.

Hindus claim Muslims, who number 100 million in India, have built a mosque at the spot in Ayodhya where Ram was born. They plan to lay the foundation stone of a shrine there next week.

Congress candidates complain bitterly about infighting in the party and lack of funds promised to them by their leaders.

On the other hand, the opposition, once known for quarrels among

its leaders, has so far bested Gandhi on practically all fronts since his unexpected announcement of elections on Nov. 22, 24 and 26.

That was five weeks ahead of schedule. Gandhi intended to catch the opposition off balance, hoping they would fall under the time pressure to join forces and agree to field only one candidate in each constituency. But they did reach broad agreement, making the poll a close contest.

Gandhi's hopes of cashing in on a populist measure to devolve power to India's villages, were 80 per cent of the people live, were also in jeopardy.

"The measure has not been able to drive corruption from the people's minds or newspaper headlines," said Mohan Guruswamy, an aide of opposition leader Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

Newspapers, even those previously backing Gandhi, have now stepped reporting opposition charges his government took bribes to award Sweden's Bofors company a \$1.3 billion arms deal.

Rising prices are also an issue along with communal tensions in the north, where nearly half the seats of the 545-member Lower House of parliament are at stake.

The tension has spilled into the cabinet.

Environment Minister Z.R. Ansari is accused of trying to rape a woman last month, while Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant has defied Gandhi and refused to contest the polls because he was not given the constituency of his choice.

In government, work has come to a standstill as senior bureaucrats consider the possibility of a new party in power.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Eitenson

STRETCHING IT A BIT
By Frank Harrington

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2 Decade
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- Diagrams
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COLUMN

Diana visits leprosy hospital

JAKARTA (R) — Princess Diana shook hands with severely disfigured Indonesian leprosy patients Saturday. Doctors at the Sinar Lepra Hospital outside Jakarta praised the British princess for showing it was safe to come into contact with lepers, whose disease is curable and difficult to catch. "It's a good thing she's coming here to know you don't have to be afraid. Many leprosy sufferers are frightened to even come for treatment because of the social problems," said Santoso, a doctor at the clinic, told reporters. There are about half a million lepers in Indonesia and 15 million in the world; largely shunned for their disease, which is still often labelled a curse of God. Leprosy can attack the nerves leading to disfigurement. These days it can often be fairly quickly cured. The princess was on the second day of a visit to Indonesia with her husband, Prince Charles. They fly on to the British colony of Hong Kong Tuesday. In a mint-green dress, the gloveless princess was greeted with applause as she entered the open-windowed wards to shake hands and chat with patients in pink uniforms.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	
	C	F	T W
AMSTERDAM	06	43	10 50 Rain
ATHENS	11	52	24 75 Clear
BAHRAIN	24	75	30 66 Clear
BANGKOK	26	79	32 90 Clear
Buenos Aires	13	55	23 73 Clear
CARO	16	61	27 81 Clear
CHICAGO	-27	20	04 68 Clear
COPENHAGEN	11	51	22 72 Clear
FRANKFURT	12	54	21 74 Clear
GENEVA	06	42	14 54 Rain
HONG KONG	24	75	28 79 Clear
ISTANBUL	12	54	21 70 Clear
JACKSONVILLE	18	64	29 75 Clear
LOS ANGELES	12	54	21 70 Clear
MADRID	08	46	18 64 Clear
MECCA	24	75	38 100 Clear
MONTREAL	-06	23	02 36 Clear
MOSCOW	-02	38	07 46 Clear
MUNICH	05	42	12 54 Clear
NEW YORK	06	43	12 54 Clear
PARIS	05	41	12 54 Rain
ROME	11	51	23 73 Clear
STOYDEN	16	61	29 73 Clear
SYDNEY	12	54	21 70 Clear
TAIPEI	12	54	21 70 Clear
TOKYO	12	54	21 70 Clear
WASHINGTON	06	43	12 54 Clear

M: indicates missing information.